redeye
Thursday
DECEMBER 17, 2009
redeyechicago.com
A Chicago Tribune publication
★ FREE ★

THAT TITANIC, ALIEN, TERMINATOR MOVIE DIRECTED BY JAMES CAMERON

20TH CENTURY FOX

Will ‘Avatar’ live up to its out-of-this-world hype? *pages 24-25*

YouTube’s 2009 most-watched *3*

Cyclist caught in road rage *6*

A good day for Tiger—finally *12*

New bars in the new year *17*

2do

To party

Enjoy the twinkling Chicago skyline with music, performances and cocktails from 6-10 p.m. Thursday at Adler Planetarium (1300 S. Lake Shore Drive). Tickets are $15 at the box office, and you must be 21 or older to attend. —*via* **@iaman**

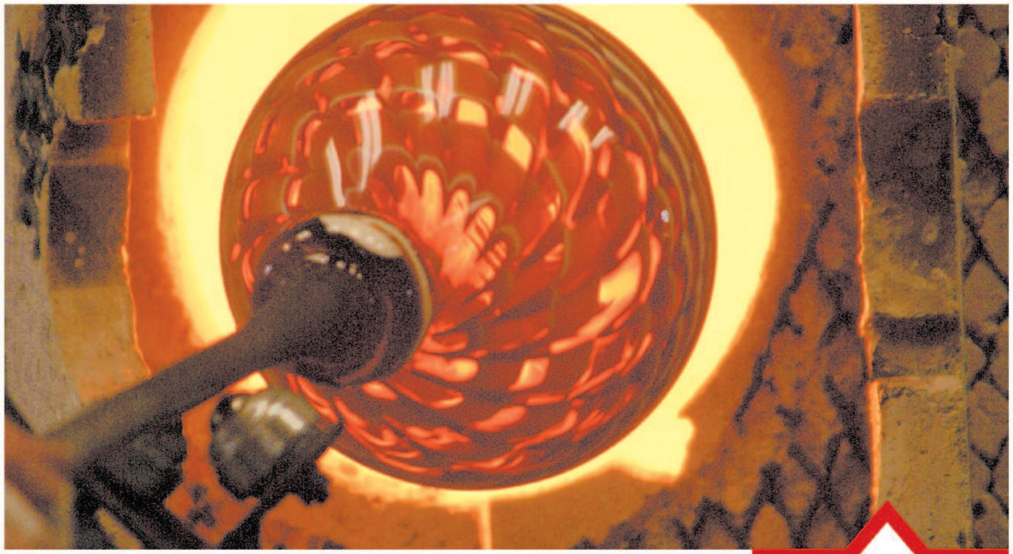
To watch

Enjoy a free screening of "Rooftop Wars" at 6 p.m. Thursday at Lakeshore Theater (3175 N. Broadway). The production, filmed in Chicago's Pilsen neighborhood, won a $100,000 grant from Independent Feature Project Chicago.

To give

Get discounts in return for donations such as toys, canned food or money from 5-8 p.m. Thursday as Southport retailers (on Southport Avenue between Belmont Avenue and Irving Park Road) host Southport Gives Back.

CALLING ALL PHOTOGRAPHERS



Got some serious skills with a camera? Show us! Each week, RedEye picks a theme, and then we post our favorite submissions on our blog. Here is our latest installment.

Your assignment: Capture a photo with the theme "candy cane."

Upon completion: E-mail your best picture to **redeyetalk@gmail.com** with "redeyephoto" in the subject line. Include your name, age, neighborhood and caption information.

» If you want to check our past themes and winners, visit **redeyechicago.com/photos.**

LAST WEEK'S WINNER

Theme: Red

Title: Red Hot

Photographer: Joe Tanner, 63, Elgin

34 29

TODAY'S FORECAST

Good news: Warmer.
Bad news: Flurries.

FRI.	SAT.	SUN.	MON.
36	31	28	26
30	21	21	13
Snow likely, blarg	Less likely to snow	Cloudy and gross	That breeze is cold!

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Breakfast with the Obamas?

GETTY IMAGES FILE

Tourists gain access to East Room buffet

Associated Press

WASHINGTON A Georgia couple who showed up at the White House a day early for a tour somehow wound up at an invitation-only breakfast with President Obama and the first lady.

It wasn't a state dinner, but it left the White House once again explaining how people who were not on an event guest list wound up being ushered into the presidential mansion anyway.

This time, White House officials say they were simply being hospitable.

The improbable adventure of Harvey and Paula Darden, Obama supporters from Hogansville, Ga., took place on Veterans Day, two weeks before Virginia socialites Tareq and Michaele Salahi infamously crashed the Obamas' state dinner for the prime minister of India.

The Dardens mistakenly showed up a day early for a tour scheduled through their congressman.

The White House and Secret Service both said the Dardens went through the appropriate security screenings and were allowed into the breakfast as a courtesy because there were no public tours the day they arrived.

Secret Service spokesman Ed Donovan said agents performed the same screening procedures on the Dardens that were used for other breakfast guests: They checked the Dardens' names and did a criminal background check— steps that were not taken for the Salahis at the Nov. 24 state dinner.

HE SAID, THEY SAID

The White House's explanation of the incident was news to Harvey Darden, 67, a retired pharmacist, who said he and his wife thought they were starting their tour and weren't told about the change—until they were ushered into the East Room, offered a buffet spread and told they'd be meeting the president.

"The further we got into the White House, the more surprised we were," Darden told The Associated Press in a telephone interview. "My wife looked at me and I looked at her, and I said, 'You know, I don't know if we're in the right place.' "

They approached a White House aide with their concern that they had veered off course but were told to "just go with the flow," Darden said.

"I felt kind of funny because I was the only man in the room that wasn't dressed in a coat and tie," he added. "I was just a plain tourist."

Good day, bad day for Ben Bernanke

Associated Press

WASHINGTON Time's Person of the Year one moment; object of Senate scorn the other.

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke faces a vote Thursday in the Senate Banking Committee on his nomination for another four-year term as head of the nation's central bank.

But on Wednesday, the same day Time magazine gave him its highest honor as Person of the Year, senators were lining up against Bernanke, blaming him for failing to anticipate the financial crisis and for approving massive bailouts to Wall Street's largest firms.

Sen. Bernie Sanders, an independent liberal from Vermont, called him a "key architect of the Bush economy."

Sanders has placed a "hold" on the nomination, meaning it will require a super-majority of 60 votes to confirm him.

"Wall Street is very powerful," Sanders said Wednesday. "Bernanke is their guy and they want their guy to stay in office."

Bernanke's term ends Jan. 31, and unless Sanders relents a full Senate vote on his nomination is not expected until next month. The Fed chairman is still expected to have enough support to win in committee and ultimately in the full Senate.

What were we watching?

On Wednesday, YouTube revealed its official list of most-watched videos for 2009.

120,000,000+

1. Susan Boyle—Britain's Got Talent

37,000,000+

2. David After Dentist

33,000,000+

3. JK Wedding Entrance Dance

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4. New Moon Movie Trailer

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5. Evian Roller Babies

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boy on boystown

JASON STEELE
redeyesex@tribune.com

All this baby talk drives me cwazy

We all know that the only way to communicate with babies is to talk to them like an idiot.

I will admit that I have caught myself talking to babies in that "goo goo gaga" voice; it's perfectly acceptable provided the voice stays directed at the baby.

You should never—under any circumstance—use that same voice to talk to another adult.

So ladies, I need to ask: What's up with all the baby talk? I'm hearing more and more women talking like babies—to their boyfriends, to each other but never to actual babies.

Is this some new "sexy trend" where women make pouty faces and act like preschoolers? It's not cute, it's not funny, and it's certainly not sexy. It's only annoying.

I heard a lady baby using this voice to her boyfriend while shopping at The Gap.

She was saying how much she "wuvs those gween pajamas," and that she "weally weally" wants them for Christmas, or rather "kwistmas." I was amazed that this voice was coming out of an adult. The worst part was that her boyfriend didn't seem fazed by it. Either he was used to it or he likes it. I'm not sure which is worse.

> ***Here's a good rule of thumb: If the object of your affectation can actually reply to you, then ditch the "cutesy-wootsy" talk.***

I thought maybe this baby voice was used to attract men, and being that I am gay, I was immune to it, like how some straight guys are ignorant to the genius of Lady Gaga songs.

So I asked several of my straight guy friends if this way of talking was a turn-on. Answer: No. One went as far as to say, "if my girlfriend started to talk like that, I'd immediately dump her."

The thought process must be "Babies are cute. Baby talk is cute. So if I talk like I baby, it means I am adorable!" Wrong.

Here's a good rule of thumb: If the object of your affectation can actually reply to you, then ditch the "cutesy-wootsy" talk.

While we're on the subject of cute things, just because something is littler than normal doesn't make it "cute." Women use this word to describe any inanimate object that has been reduced in size.

Mini cupcakes aren't cute, they're just small. Same goes for Smart cars, little Christmas ornaments or silver-dollar pancakes. And here's a piece of advice: Don't use "cute" to describe anything on your boyfriend's body.

Let's make it a New Year's resolution to retire the baby talk. My parents always taught me that if you are going to act like a baby, you should be treated like one. I recommend putting all the lady babies in an extended time-out until they can learn to act like adults. **JASON STEELE IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.**

TALK TO US

What's your take on things? You, too, can be a guest columnist.

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chicago

Kelly Carbajal and her brother, Turson Livingston, talk about their brother, Jepson Livingston, a cyclist who was killed Tuesday after getting caught in a fight between drivers in Logan Square. TERRENCE ANTONIO JAMES/TRIBUNE

Police say cyclist caught in fight between drivers

Chicago Tribune

Jepson Livingston, who was on his way to fill out job applications, unknowingly pedaled toward a violent dispute Tuesday afternoon in Logan Square, authorities said.

Ahead of him, the driver of one van rammed a second one over and over.

As the vans approached Livingston, the vehicle under attack swerved off the road, crashing through a body shop's wrought-iron fence in the 3800 block of West Diversey Avenue.

The driver of the other van also lost control, spinning into Livingston and sending him flying as high as the utility lines.

He was pronounced dead about half an hour later in Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center.

A Chicago man believed to be responsible for the wreck was being questioned by police Wednesday night, several law enforcement sources said.

Investigators believe the suspect was in a dispute with the man in the second van over the purchase of a car, one of the sources said.

Livingston's large family said they were numbed by news that their brother—an easygoing 32-year-old who'd been trying to turn his life around—had been killed.

"My mind went blank," said his younger brother, Turson. "I shut down for a minute—and then there was anger."

Livingston, who grew up in Logan Square, had struggled with drugs, his family said. But he also tried to better himself, working at a restaurant and a pet day care facility and making plans to enroll in school.

Despite the difficult economy, he had set out Tuesday afternoon to try to find work, his family said.

"He was down on his luck," said his aunt, Gladys Stevens. "But he was coming back."

And no matter what, Livingston, one of seven siblings, remained the love of his mom's life.

The mother, Henrietta, said her son had walked her to the "L" on Tuesday morning and later in the day discussed with her what he planned to fix for the family's dinner.

"It was very hard to see him at the hospital," she said. "It was very hard to think that just a couple of hours earlier things were just fine."

Turson Livingston, 28, said he also had just seen his brother Tuesday morning.

"We were just hanging out, smoking cigarettes, shooting the breeze like brothers would," he said.

Livingston's sister, Kelly Carbajal, said Livingston recently had talked about returning to culinary school and dreamed of becoming a professional chef.

"Life is short, and that's what everyone forgets when they're driving," she said. "I want them to see what they took away. I want them to see the life they took away."

Taking the bacon

Frontera Grill visited by state inspectors searching for uninspected meat

Chicago Tribune

Bayless

Mr. Bayless, step away from the bacon. And we'll be taking the headcheese, too, thank you.

That's basically what happened Tuesday morning when inspectors from the Illinois Department of Agriculture, motivated by a Chicago Reader story, showed up at Rick Bayless' Frontera Grill in search of uninspected pig meat.

IDA spokesman Jeff Squibb says inspectors confiscated an 80-pound box of bacon that bore no mark of inspection and a mess of headcheese that bore a Wisconsin mark of inspection, which doesn't fly in Illinois.

The Chicago Reader story ran last month and profiled two Wisconsin men (E&P Meats) who produce unlicensed charcuterie at home. The story said the men share a pork processor with the restaurants, which led the IDA to suspect they might also be "getting uninspected meat and it turned out to be correct," Squibb said.

Jen Fite, a Frontera spokeswoman, said the Tuesday visit was "very low-key, not a business-stopping adventure." Frontera says all its meats were shown to be properly inspected and sourced except one big box of bacon.

The IDA inspectors, however, also had a technical beef with the headcheese, a product made from diced pig head and served on sandwiches with tongue at Bayless' nearby Xoco restaurant. An IDA spokeswoman said Bayless would receive an administrative hearing in Springfield and a fine between $500 and $500,000.

The Chicago-based IDA inspectors then motored to North Pond in Lincoln Park, where, Squibb says, they found the restaurant closed. A North Pond spokesman confirmed that the inspectors called, but that the restaurant was closed during lunch hours.

So will they visit North Pond again?

"We try to keep our inspections unannounced," Squibb replied.

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The city's lone Walmart is located on the 4700 block of North Ave. CHARLES CHERNEY/TRIBUNE FILE

Daley reignites Walmart debate

Mayor Daley on Wednesday exerted new pressure on a logjam that has kept City Council from approving plans to add a second Walmart store in the city.

"I am raising a political hot potato," Daley conceded, speaking after a City Council meeting at which he introduced several ordinances aimed at creating jobs for out-of-work Chicagoans. "These are very complex issues. They are completely different than they were three years ago."

Three years ago, a majority of City Council members took the unusual step of ignoring Daley's wishes and approved an ordinance mandating a higher minimum wage for Walmart and other "big-box" retailers.

Daley then issued his first veto, striking the law down, and aldermen couldn't muster sufficient votes to override that action. The unions then took on Daley in the 2007 election by helping to elect several aldermen not backed by the mayor.

Although one Walmart opened its first city store on the West Side just months after the veto, it has yet to open another one, because aldermen refuse to sign off on such developments.

Some contend the mayor could direct his staff to approve new Walmart plans. But he said today he would rather have the backing of aldermen so he can't be criticized by the media for acting unilaterally.

Teen cop impersonator released

The teen who famously masqueraded as a Chicago police officer—donning a uniform and riding along with another officer—was ordered released Wednesday morning after more than two months in a state youth facility.

Judge Andrew Berman warned the teen, whom the Tribune is not naming because he is a juvenile, to follow the rules of his probation and stay out of trouble.

"Surprise me," Berman told the teen. "Make me not see you for a while."

The teen had been in the state youth correctional facility since Sept. 29, when Berman ordered him taken into custody after he violated his home confinement, one of the terms of his probation.

The probation was the penalty for the impersonation incident, which happened in January, and another incident in May in which he went to a South Side car dealership posing as a buyer, then drove off the lot in a luxury car and led police on a chase.

Death sentence for Dugan

A judge imposed the death sentence on Brian Dugan on Wednesday for kidnapping, raping and killing 10-year-old Jeanine Nicarico of Naperville, and set the execution date for Feb. 25.

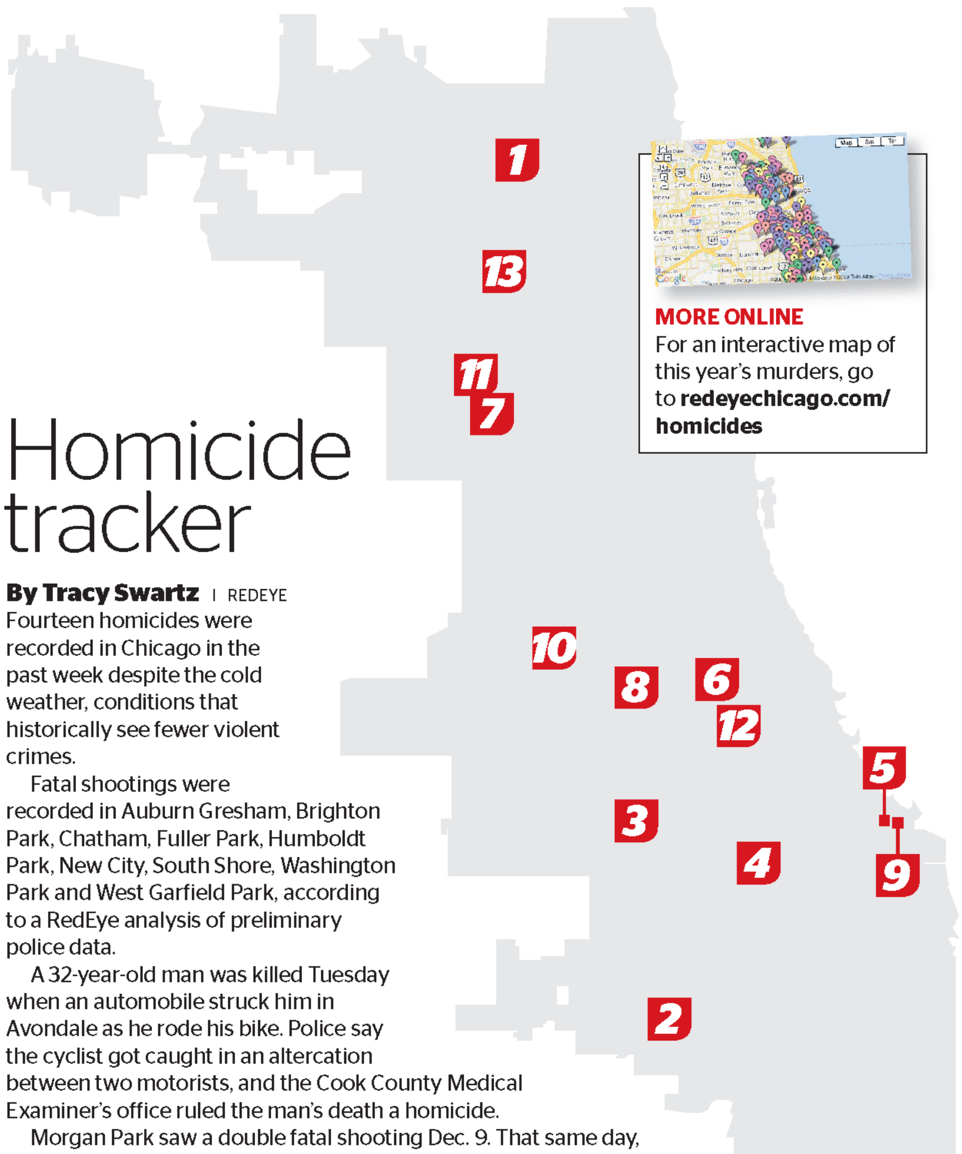
"The wheels of justice were often derailed for Jeanine," Judge George Bakalis said in accepting a jury's sentence of death and setting the execution date on the 27th anniversary of Nicarico's death.

Cop hurt in fire rescue

A Chicago police officer was hurt this morning while rescuing a woman from the second floor of a burning home on the Far South Side.

The officer suffered smoke inhalation, as did a civilian, in the blaze in the 10400 block of South King Drive. The fire broke out at about 6:50 a.m., police said. The officer was patrolling the area when he heard a report of the fire on his radio and went to the scene.

Homicide tracker



MORE ONLINE
For an interactive map of this year's murders, go to **redeyechicago.com/homicides**

By Tracy Swartz | REDEYE

Fourteen homicides were recorded in Chicago in the past week despite the cold weather, conditions that historically see fewer violent crimes.

Fatal shootings were recorded in Auburn Gresham, Brighton Park, Chatham, Fuller Park, Humboldt Park, New City, South Shore, Washington Park and West Garfield Park, according to a RedEye analysis of preliminary police data.

A 32-year-old man was killed Tuesday when an automobile struck him in Avondale as he rode his bike. Police say the cyclist got caught in an altercation between two motorists, and the Cook County Medical Examiner's office ruled the man's death a homicide.

Morgan Park saw a double fatal shooting Dec. 9. That same day, a 32-year-old woman was found floating in the Chicago River in the North Park area. The woman was smothered to death from a plastic bag placed over her head, according to the Medical Examiner's office.

Meanwhile, a 24-year-old man was shot and stabbed in South Chicago on Sunday.

All 14 victims were 40 years old or younger, and 12 victims were male, according to Medical Examiner data. Eleven victims were black, while three victims were white or Hispanic.

Citywide, Chicago police have recorded 19 homicides so far this month. Last year, police logged 29 homicides in December. TSWARTZ@TRIBUNE.COM

Homicides from Dec. 9 to 4 p.m. Wednesday.
(Note: The shooting on South Aberdeen Street had two victims; all the other locations had one victim.)

1	**5100 BLOCK OF N. CENTRAL PARK AVE.**	Date: Dec. 9	Cause: Asphyxia
2	**11300 BLOCK OF S. ABERDEEN ST.**	Date: Dec. 9	Cause: Gunshot
3	**1600 BLOCK OF W. 78TH ST.**	Date: Dec. 10	Cause: Gunshot
4	**8300 BLOCK OF S. RHODES AVE.**	Date: Dec. 10	Cause: Gunshot
5	**7800 BLOCK OF S. KINGSTON AVE.**	Date: Dec. 11	Cause: Gunshot
6	**300 BLOCK OF W. 51ST PLACE**	Date: Dec. 11	Cause: Gunshot
7	**4100 BLOCK OF W. LAKE ST.**	Date: Dec. 12	Cause: Gunshot
8	**5300 BLOCK OF S. MARSHFIELD AVE.**	Date: Dec. 12	Cause: Gunshot
9	**2900 BLOCK OF E. 79TH ST.**	Date: Dec. 13	Cause: Gunshot, stabbing
10	**3100 BLOCK OF W. 45TH ST.**	Date: Dec. 13	Cause: Gunshot
11	**4400 BLOCK OF W. THOMAS ST.**	Date: Dec. 13	Cause: Gunshot
12	**5900 BLOCK OF S. WABASH AVE.**	Date: Dec. 15	Cause: Gunshot
13	**3800 BLOCK OF W. DIVERSEY AVE.**	Date: Dec. 15	Cause: Auto crash

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GETTY IMAGES

Warning from Iran

1 Iran on Wednesday test-fired an upgraded version of its most advanced missile, which is capable of hitting Israel and parts of Europe, in a new show of strength aimed at preventing any strike against it amid the nuclear standoff with the West.

Health care delays

2 Hopes for rapid progress on President Obama's health care overhaul dimmed Wednesday as Republican delaying tactics complicated the work of Senate Democrats to line up 60 votes and move the bill.

Interest rates stay put

3 The Federal Reserve pledged Wednesday to hold interest rates at a record low to drive down double-digit unemployment and sustain the economic recovery.

Taliban plan video

4 A terrorism monitoring group says the Taliban have announced they will release a new video of a U.S. soldier captured in Afghanistan.

FTC targets Intel

5 The Federal Trade Commission piled on new antitrust charges against Intel Corp. on Wednesday, seeking to end what it described as a decade of illegal sales tactics that have crippled rivals and kept prices for computer chips artificially high.

Grisly discovery

6 A woman was charged Wednesday in Wilmington, N.C., with keeping the corpse of her elderly mother in their home for months before the body was discovered in the woman's bed.

THE DIGIT

50

A 2-year-old Brazilian boy has as many as 50 metal sewing needles inside his body, and a doctor treating the boy said Wednesday they were apparently stuck there one by one. The boy's mother told police she doesn't know how the needles got inside her son, but police have opened an investigation.

Cockpit confusion detailed

7 **WASHINGTON** A call from a flight attendant to the pilots of the Northwest Airlines plane that overshot Minneapolis catapulted the cockpit crew from complacency to confusion.

Interviews with the flight crew and other documents released Wednesday by the National Transportation Safety Board indicate the pilots were completely unaware of their predicament until the moment the intercom rang.

They were unaware that they had flown their Airbus A320 with 144 passengers more than 100 miles past their destination, that air traffic controllers and their airline's dispatchers had been struggling to reach them for more than an hour or that the military was at that moment readying fighter jets for an intercept mission.

Timothy Cheney, the captain of Flight 188, said he looked up from his laptop to discover there was no longer any flight information programmed into the Airbus A320's computer. He said his navigation system showed Duluth, Minn., off to his left and Eau Claire, Wis., ahead on the right.

The plane had been out of radio contact for 77 minutes as it flew across a broad swath of the country Oct. 21, raising national security concerns.

Cheney, 54, and First Officer Richard Cole, 54, told investigators they had taken out their laptops and were working on a complicated crew scheduling program that they were required to learn following Delta Air Lines' acquisition of Northwest a year earlier. Cole told investigators they became distracted as they "got deeper and deeper into it."

PILOTS APPEALING

Both pilots are appealing the FAA's revocation of their licenses. Delta spokesman Anthony Black said the two pilots remain suspended while Delta investigates the incident.

Christmas Eve means fire safety

8 **HOMEWOOD, Ala.** Churches in an Alabama city better count on a few extra guests at Christmas Eve candlelight ceremonies.

The Birmingham suburb of Homewood requires a permit and four off-duty firefighters to attend any service where candles are passed out to parishioners.

Fire Chief John Bresnan says the rule has been in place for 10 years, but many churches didn't know about it.

Pastor Sid Burgess of Edgewood Presbyterian Church says the rule "does seem like overkill" and the cost of up to $400 to hire firefighters can be a lot for a small church.

The rule doesn't apply if ministers and other church leaders are the only ones handling the flames. The fire chief says the rule is about ensuring safety in crowded rooms with open flames.

Climate conflict

9 The helmets of Danish riot police fog up Wednesday as they push back demonstrators outside the Bella Center, the venue of the U.N. Climate Conference, in Copenhagen. The 10-day-old climate talks ran into disputes and paralysis as they entered a critical stage Wednesday, just two days before President Obama and more than 100 other national leaders hope to sign a historic agreement to fight global warming. AP

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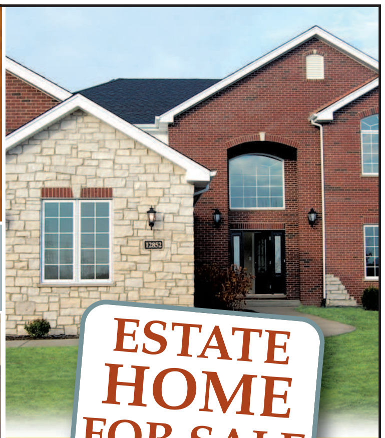

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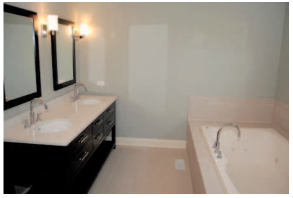

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Artest
GETTY IMAGES FILE

Ron Artest sympathizes with Tiger

MILWAUKEE Lakers forward Ron Artest says an open letter to Tiger Woods that was posted on his Web site was meant to encourage the golf superstar because Artest believes media coverage of Woods' mistakes has been unfair.

"I just really disagree, I guess you call it backlash," Artest said Wednesday. "Hopefully, he gets everything in order and gets back on track, his personal [life]. Then after that I can't wait to see him play golf again."

Artest said he was motivated to write the letter after talking with friends because of the negative coverage Woods has received since acknowledging marital infidelity following his Nov. 27 car accident near his Orlando-area home.

Artest doesn't know Woods and does not want the golfer to contact him about the comments he published Tuesday on his Web site.

In his post, Artest called Woods a perfect role model while sharing some of his own story, including that he fathered a child with another woman after having two children with his girlfriend who later became his wife. Artest said in his blog he now has two boys and two girls.

"I just felt it was a situation where we heard one of the greatest is not going to play golf, a sport that he loves," Artest said. "OK, look at me. I'm over here in L.A., having a great season, back on track, and I make way more mistakes than him. Hopefully that's some words of encouragement."

Artest's blog post called Woods a "perfect role model for me and my sons."

He said Wednesday that Woods is still a perfect role model and that he would tell his sons nothing about Woods' admissions because the golfer's personal life is none of their business.

STILL THE MAN

EVEN SCANDAL CAN'T STOP TIGER FROM BEING NAMED ATHLETE OF DECADE

Associated Press

Even after a shocking sex scandal that tarnished Tiger Woods, it was tough to ignore what he achieved on the golf course. He won 64 times around the world, including 12 majors, and hoisted a trophy on every continent golf is played. He lost only one time with the lead going into the final round. His 56 PGA Tour victories in one incomparable decade were more than anyone except four of golf's greatest players won in their careers.

Woods was selected Wednesday as the Athlete of the Decade by members of The Associated Press in a vote that was more about 10 years of performance than nearly three weeks of salacious headlines.

Just like so many of his victories, it wasn't much of a contest.

Woods received 56 of the 142 votes cast since last month by editors at U.S. newspapers that are members of the AP. More than half of the ballots were returned after the Nov. 27 car accident outside his Florida home that set off sensational tales of infidelity.

Woods, who has not been seen since the accident and has issued only three statements on his Web site, was not made available to comment about the award.

Few other athletes have changed their sport quite like Woods. His influence has been so powerful that TV ratings spiked whenever he played, even more when he has been in contention. Prize money has quadrupled since he joined the PGA Tour because of his broad appeal.

A new image emerged quickly in the days following his middle-of-the-night accident, when he ran his SUV over a fire hydrant and into a tree. He became the butt of late-night TV jokes, eventually confessed that he "let my family down" with "transgressions" and lost a major sponsorship from Accenture.

Even so, AP members found his work on the golf course over the past 10 years without much of a blemish. Woods took an early lead in balloting, and continued to receive roughly the same percentage of votes throughout the process.

"Despite the tsunami of negative publicity that will likely tarnish his image, there's no denying that Woods' on-the-course accomplishments set a new standard of dominance within his sport while making golf more accessible to the masses," wrote Stu Whitney, sports editor of the Sioux Falls (S.D.) Argus Leader.

"The only proof needed are the television ratings when Tiger plays in a golf tournament, compared to those events when others have to carry the load."

Woods tumbled from the pinnacle of his sport in just about three weeks. The 10 years that preceded that fall, however, represented perhaps the greatest decade in golf history.

He won the career Grand Slam three times over, including one U.S. Open by a record 15 shots at Pebble Beach and another U.S. Open on a mangled leg in a playoff at Torrey Pines. He twice won the British Open at St. Andrews, the home of golf, by a combined 13 shots.

Woods won 56 times on the PGA Tour this decade, a rate of 30 percent that is unprecedented in golf. Nine of those victories were by at least eight shots. He was No. 1 in the world ranking for all but 32 weeks in the decade; that when he was revamping his swing.

He did his best work in the biggest events.

Along with his 12 majors this decade—he has 14 overall, four short of the record held by Jack Nicklaus—Woods was runner-up in six other majors. He won 14 times out of 27 appearances in the World Golf Championships.

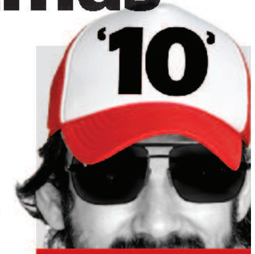
Woods finished the decade with $81,547,410 in earnings from his PGA Tour events, an average of $482,529 per tournament.

THE REST

Lance Armstrong, a cancer survivor who won the Tour de France six times this decade, finished second in Athlete of the Decade voting with 33 nods. He was followed by Roger Federer, who won more Grand Slam singles titles than any other man, with 25 votes. Record-setting Olympic swimmer Michael Phelps came in fourth with 13 votes, followed by New England quarterback Tom Brady (6) and sprinter Usain Bolt (4). Five other athletes received one vote apiece. **AP**

Woods
GETTY IMAGES FILE

Cubbie-blue Christmas



top ten chicago sports

MATT OLSEN
chicagonow.com/blogs

Listen up, Cubs fans. It's time someone set the record straight about Jim Hendry. While most of you think he's been lounging around missing out on baseball's biggest hot stove deals, the opposite is true. Hendry's been a man on a mission, and to prove it, here are his Top Ten Offseason Moves So Far.

The Snuggie

10 Desperate to get his hands on a leopard-print Snuggie, Hendry promptly outbid everyone and offered the clerk a no-trade clause.

Bust a move

9 Big Jim dug deep and pulled out the Truffle Shuffle at the Cubs Christmas party. Be glad you weren't around to see his Humpty Dance.

Knitting

8 Hendry knitted the entire team beach towels to use while away on its annual October vacation.

Zhu Zhu Pets

7 He traded away season tickets for every Zhu Zhu Pet in the area. The man can waste money on a flash in the pan like nobody else.

Cubs dump trucks

6 How else will Milton's money get to his new home? That is, if he's going anywhere (feel free to use this paper to wipe away the vomit if you just got violently ill).

Bye bye, Aaron Miles

5 No jokes here. Tiger had more mistresses in a month than Miles had RBIs all of last year.

Freebies

4 While everyone else wheeled and dealed at the winter meetings, big Jim loaded up on free towels and mini-shampoos. Suckers!

Promoted Ryne Sandberg

3 Anything Ryno-related can make Cubs fans forget their team is in a hole as deep as the Mariana Trench.

Purchased firejimhendry.com

2 Might as well make some cash off the people who are calling for your head. Lovie Smith didn't get a dime of that action.

Moved the TV

1 Now Jim can change the channel with his toe and never has to get up off the couch.

READ A NEW TOP 10 SPORTS LIST EVERY DAY AT WWW.CHICAGONOW.COM/TOP-TEN-CHICAGO-SPORTS/.

10 timer

So, Mr. Woods is the athlete of the decade. Who'd be your Five on Fiver of the decade? Tell us at **redeyechicago.com/5on5.**

TOPIC	JIMMY GREENFIELD jgreenfield@chicagonow.com	KEVIN PANG cheeseburgershow.com	ADAM CALDARELLI acaldarelli@tribune.com	SARAH SPAIN chicagonow.com/sarahspain	BEAR JORDAN redeyesports@tribune.com
1 Who would you rather have: Ray Lewis or Brian Urlacher?	I'd rather have somebody who's not on the verge of retirement.	The non-pouty one with the good wrists who doesn't mouth off about teammates.	Have how: in a murderous street fight or a football game?	Urlacher on the field, Lewis on the streets.	Bri, because he's just like a big, cuddly Bear, just like me. Honest, hug me, I don't bite.
2 Indianapolis plays Jacksonville tonight: Can the Colts go 16-0?	They will beat the Jaguars, Jets and Bills unless they pack it in. Let's pray they don't.	Yes. I'm willing to wager my Cutler jersey currently offered on eBay for $10.	Jacksonville has an NFL team? Shut up.	Yeah sure, I heard that Manning kid is decent.	They have a better chance than the Bears do, I'll give them that much.
3 What's your secret weapon for the fantasy football playoffs?	I'm in the semifinals and I'm starting Brett Favre over Jay Cutler. But it won't save me.	Two-handed MacBook thwack to the temple.	By having a small semblance of a life and not playing fantasy football.	I've stacked my team with all Bears players. Championship!	I'm in a league featuring 12 teams, all of which I run. Still, I might not win.
4 How would Scott Podsednik look in a Cubs uniform?	Like Willie Wilson, Juan Pierre, Jacques Jones and Milton Bradley but with a hotter wife.	Sign him just to hear Santo and Piniella in a Pronounce-Off.	Better than Juan Pierre looks in a Sox uniform, but not by much.	I'm a chick and even I would rather talk about how his wife Lisa Dergan would look.	Not as good as Milton Bradley would look out of one. Uhh, that came out wrong.
5 How could a sponsor upgrade from Tiger Woods?	By signing Wilt Chamberlain's corpse.	Hire R. Kelly as new face of lemon-lime Gatorade.	Mike Tyson would be an upgrade at this point.	John Daly: Even a smoking, drinking, gambling, spouse-abusing cheater would be an upgrade at this point.	The Taliban does not have a corporate sponsor that I know of.

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> “... when things are going bad, somebody you least expect is going to go.” —Devin Hester, Bears wide receiver

TRIBUNE

Hester: Changes coming

If you have been frustrated wondering why the Bears offense hasn’t found more inventive ways to get Devin Hester the ball this season, imagine how Hester feels.

That frustration left little to the imagination Wednesday at Halas Hall as Hester stood at his locker and candidly assessed his increasingly limited role.

“It’s tough watching other teams, other offenses find ways for their guys to get their hands on the ball better [than we do],” Hester said. Hester, who missed the Green Bay game with a calf injury, has 54 catches for 682 yards and three TDs but only two catches in the last two games he was healthy.

Asked why the screen pass the Bears often use to get him the football had stopped working, Hester answered in a way that didn’t flatter the offensive coaching staff.

“Everybody watches film,” he said. “They see what type of play we’re executing that’s working, and they adjust.”

Hester’s honest assessment of the situation would seem to indict offensive coordinator Ron Turner just when speculation is swirling about Turner’s job status. Without intending, the usually soft-spoken wide receiver also defended Jay Cutler and his fellow receivers.

“It’s tough,” Hester said of the struggling passing game. “It’s not all on the receivers and the quarterback. .... For example, the running game might not be going good, the offensive line might be holding up. It’s a group thing, the overall offense.”

And when the overall offense stalls to the extent the Bears offense has stalled, changes loom. Hester all but guaranteed it.

“There will be a lot of changes, I know that for a fact,” Hester said. “[I] am not blind. Everybody sees it.

MOVES TO MAKE

Devin Hester says changes are coming, and RedEye think that’s great. We’ve got some ideas.

- » Move Hester back to kick and punt returning duties. He isn’t working as a wide receiver, and he was way more valuable as a return threat.
- » Get a stud WR. A guy like Brandon Marshall, whose contract is up after this season and who played with Jay Cutler in Denver.
- » Fire the coaching staff. All of them.

AthTweets

Devin Hester (**@D_Hest23**) went to Twitter after his comments made headlines. Here’s what he had to say.

I feel like the media blew my interview out of proportion and that everything I said was reworded or taken the wrong way.

When I am asked, “Will there be changes?” my answer is “yes.” What I mean is; there will always be new guys (rookies, trades or coaches).

That goes for every team, whether you are picked up or traded, it is still a change to the team.

After reading current articles I feel like the press tried to make me seem like I had inside information on the future of coaches or players.

Which is not the case at all.

Cincinnati Bengals Chris Henry suffered serious injuries after falling out of the back of a pickup truck during a domestic dispute with his fiance, police said Wednesday.

Illinois needs to fill a huge void at wide receiver after junior Arrelious Benn announced Wednesday that he would forgo his senior year of eligibility to enter the NFL draft.

The Philadelphia Phillies got ace Roy Halladay from Toronto and traded Cliff Lee to Seattle on Wednesday, completing a four-team deal that featured a pair of Cy Young winners.

» Blackhawks 3, St. Louis 0 » Northwestern 84, N. Florida 54 » American 62, DePaul 57 » UIC 63, Oregon St. 61 » Loyola 68, Bradley 65

watch dog

WHIZZER

redeyesports@tribune.com

Devin Hester is sure there will be changes to the Bears next year. That’s one thing he’s gotten right. Here now, my TV picks.

NBA

Bulls vs. N.Y. Knicks

7 p.m. CSN

Hard to believe the bungling Knicks have about the same record as the Bulls.

WOMEN’S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Loyola vs. N. Illinois

7 p.m. WYIN-PBS

From now on, call this the Battle of Northeastern-Chicago Illinois. Has a ring, no?

NFL

Jacksonville vs. Indianapolis

7 p.m. NFL Network

Colts are in pursuit of perfection. They won’t find it in Florida, that’s for sure.

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NEW ON THE SCENE: BARS

THE COUNTDOWN

The latest ETAs on coming-soon spots

LATE DECEMBER/ EARLY JANUARY

Small Bar
The local favorite opens a Lincoln Park outpost

Primebar
Bar and eatery in the Loop from the owners of Bar Louie

Vintage 338
Intimate 25-seat wine bar in Lincoln Park

Revolution Brewing
Logan Square brewpub from Handlebar co-owner Josh Deth

Sports Corner
Wrigleyville favorite preparing for a relaunch

EARLY JANUARY

Wolcott's
Comfort food-slinging tavern on the corner of Montrose and Wolcott.

LATE JANUARY

Lockdown
Concert-inspired, vaguely prison-themed bar and grill in West Town

The Exchange
Lava closes this weekend to morph into this low-key cocktail lounge

EARLY FEBRUARY

Dos Diablos
Mexican cantina in the old Cabaret address in River North

Nice Slice Pizza Bar
Craft brews, funky cocktails and, of course, pizza in Logan Square from the owners of Simone's

FEBRUARY

Beauty Bar
Retro salon-style lounge setting up shop in the former Sonotheque space

MARCH 1

Harry Caray's Tavern
Get ready to say "Holy cow!" at Navy Pier

5 to toast

Shake up your weekend routine with new nightlife scenes

By Lisa Arnett

While you were busy making New Year's Eve plans, brand-new bars around town were getting ready to pour their first round. Spend the last days of 2009 imbibing at these new hangouts, from a chi-chi hotel bar to neighborhood dives made over into new concepts.

Mr. Brown's Lounge
DAN PETERSON PHOTOS FOR METROMIX

JUST OPENED

Cuna

1113 W. Belmont Ave. 312-224-8588

Foodies and cocktail fans will find common ground at this clubby culinary lounge in Lakeview, opening Thursday night. The food? Globally inspired eats by hot-shot chef Kendal Duque. The look? A mash-up of concrete, glass, red vinyl and funky artwork. And as for the cocktails, a $10-and-under list gives an obligatory nod to the classics (sazerac, old fashioned, negroni) as well as owner Paolo Acuna's international travels with drinks such as the Zen, a peach and green tea concoction.

Mr. Brown's Lounge

2301 W. Chicago Ave. 772-278-4445

If this spot named after a Bob Marley tune feels like a Ukie Village dive bar with a bright shot of the tropics, it's because that's exactly what it is. The antique wooden bar from the previous occupant, Sak's, was left intact, joined by black bamboo-trimmed daybeds and reggae record covers to lend a subtle island feel. Think warm-weather thoughts with a bottle of Red Stripe, potent Jamaican rum punch or the namesake Mr. Brown, a mix of Kahlua, Baileys and cognac (top right).

Mr. Brown's Lounge

Bernard's Bar

Elysian Hotel, 11 E. Walton St. 2nd floor. 312-646-1300

Head up the staircase at posh week-old Gold Coast hotel the Elysian to find this candlelit drinking den. You may have to ask Fendi handbag-carrying ladies to move their fur coats so you can sit down at the marble-topped bar, but access to the addictive complimentary bar snacks is worth it. You could sip on bottled craft beers, but in this sophisticated setting, it seems more appropriate to dabble in ports and classic cocktails.

OPENING SOON

Touch

1622 W. Belmont Ave. 773-883-8888

If you've dreamed about a cocktail-ordering app for your cell phone, this interactive Lakeview bar may be the closest you'll get. Running open-to-the-public trial nights through Friday followed by a grand opening Saturday at 8 p.m., this "iBar" is from the crew behind Madpoison, a similar concept that aimed to open in the West Loop last year but stalled indefinitely. Step up to a gigantic touch screen (think "Minority Report") powered by virtual bartender software and build your cocktail from a massive database. It's not necessarily quicker than ordering from a bartender, but it's arguably more interesting.

Lobby Lounge

150 W. Roosevelt Rd. 312-564-2100

Jerry Kleiner is behind this 150-seat lounge inside the South Loop's Showplace Icon Theatre, opening today, but it leans more toward chic hotel lobby than his over-the-top restaurants. Movie-goers and anyone else who's game (it's open to those 21-and-up, with or without tickets) can sip wines by the glass and snack on pizzas and panini with a primo view of the downtown skyline to the north.

Late Bar

3534 W. Belmont Ave. 773-267-5283

Kristine Hengl and Dave Roberts—the nightlife junkies that started New Wave dance night Planet Earth in 1994—fulfill their longtime dream of running their own clubby commune for lovers of indie music and artsy types. Taking over Avondale haunt Cindy's Our Place, it opens to the public Dec. 26, and yes, it's open late (4 a.m. most days; 5 a.m. Saturday).

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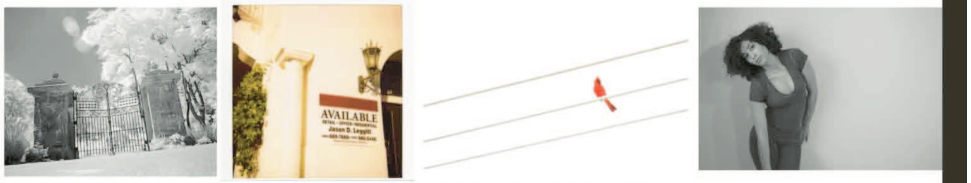

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C-View

6 p.m.: Wine tasting. Local distributors pour wines from their portfolios; cheese trays included at the tasting. $15; 166 E. Superior St. Affinia Chicago Hotel. 312-523-0923.

Cityscape Bar

6 p.m.: Vino with a View. Sip wine and snack on appetizers on the 15th floor of the Holiday Inn Mart Plaza. Selections include Odfjell Armador merlot and Four Vines "Old Vine Cuvee" zinfandel with crab cakes, chicken satay and bruschetta. No cover. RSVP required: **cityscape@martplaza.com**; 350 W. Mart Center Drive Holiday Inn Mart Plaza, 15th Floor. 312-836-5000.

THURSDAY DEALS

ABERDEEN
$2.50 Miller Lite bottles, $5 Ultimat vodka cocktails, $5 Patron shots; 1856 W. North Ave. 773-772-5500.

BRIDGET MCNEILL'S
Half-price pastas, $3.50 select import bottles, $4 cosmos. Food specials are dine-in only; 420 W. Belmont Ave. 773-248-6654.

THE CALL
$4 Absolut cocktails; 1547 W. Bryn Mawr Ave. 773-334-2525.

DUKE OF PERTH
50 cent wings; 2913 N. Clark St. 773-477-1741.

DUNLAYS ON THE SQUARE
7 p.m.: Peak Organic beer tasting. Get flights of IPA, Amber ale and Maple Oat ale from the brewery for $6. No cover; 3137 W. Logan Blvd. 773-227-2400.

THE FULL SHILLING
$1 select drafts, $3 Stoli cocktails, $3.50 Blue Moon drafts, $2 half-pound burgers; 3724 N. Clark St. 773-248-3330.

INNJOY
$1 select beer bottles, $4 Sam Adams pints, half-price appetizers; 2051 W. Division St. 773-394-2066.

KIRKWOOD BAR & GRILL
$1 mini-burgers, $2.50 domestic bottles, $5 bombs; 2934 N. Sheffield Ave. 773-770-0700.

MATILDA
$3 Point Pale Ale drafts, $5 appetizers; 3101 N. Sheffield Ave. 773-883-4400.

PHYLLIS' MUSICAL INN
$3.50 Moosehead pints, $4.25 bottle of the month; 1800 W. Division St. 773-486-9862.

PIECE
$4 Bitburger Pilsner drafts, karaoke 9 p.m.; 1927 W. North Ave. 773-772-4422.

THE RED CANARY
Half-price bottles of wine, $40 5-liter table kegs; 695 N. Milwaukee Ave. 312-846-1475.

SALUD
$1-3 select appetizers, $3 Corona and Corona Light bottles; 1471 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-235-5577.

SILVER CLOUD
$10 select personal pitchers; 1700 N. Damen Ave. 773-489-6212.

THE SPREAD
$5 for select beer-and-shot combos; 2476 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-857-5074.

best bets

By Rebecca Palmore
rkpalmore@tribune.com

'Big Lebowski' night

Brownstone Tavern & Grill, 3937 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-528-3700

thu 17

Rekindle your love of the Dude and his infamous cocktail at this why-the-hell-not party and screening of the Coen bros' film. Includes $4 Kahlua Caucasians and Jameson cocktails, plus $5 fish tacos. 5 p.m. No cover.

Christmas party

High Dive, 1938 W. Chicago Ave. 773-235-3483

Sign up for a chance to win tickets to the Black Keys' sold-out NYE show at the Riviera. Also, sip $3 Jim Beam shots and 312 drafts. 4 p.m. No cover.

The Grinch Who Gave Christmas Back

The Underground, 56 W. Illinois St. 312-644-7600

Eric Cubeechee of Bravo's competitive fashion show "Launch My Line" spins at the benefit for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Includes an hour of appetizers and hosted Grey Goose cocktails. 9 p.m. $20 donation.

Chicago Bliss trip

Timothy O'Toole's, 622 N. Fairbanks Ct. 312-642-0700

fri 18

Hop a Sears Centre-bound bus to see the Chicago Bliss vs. the Philadelphia Passion in the Lingerie Football League. Includes Miller Lite, round-trip transportation and a ticket to the 9 p.m. game. 7 p.m. $20.

Food drive

Moe's Cantina, 3518 N. Clark St. 773-248-0002

Share your pantry's wealth of non-perishables with the Greater Chicago Food Depository. Includes free appetizers and hosted 4 Rebels vodka cocktails. 8 p.m.

Indie Arts Market

Schubas, 3159 N. Southport Ave.

sat 19
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FILE FOR METROMIX

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C-HOUSE
4-8:30 p.m.: Three-course dinner featuring oyster and sunchoke stew; heirloom apple salad; pickled herring with quail egg; rack of lamb; roasted goose with foie gras; wild striped bass; wine-roasted pears and more. Menu also available Christmas Day. $49; 166 E. Superior St. Affinia Chicago hotel. 312-523-0923.

CAFE DES ARCHITECTES
5-11 p.m.: Four-course dinner featuring peeky toe crab salad, roasted boneless quail, arugula salad with hazelnut vinaigrette, beef tenderloin with chanterelle mushrooms, guinea hen with glazed baby turnip, and buche de noel. $55; 20 E. Chestnut St. Sofitel Chicago Water Tower. 312-324-4000.

CYRANO’S BISTROT AND WINE BAR
4-9 p.m.: Chef Didier Durand prepares a three-course dinner in addition to an a la carte menu with holiday specials. Selections include celery root salad, chilled oysters on the half shell, lobster bisque, rack of lamb, roasted goose, grilled swordfish and buche de noel. $35.99; 546 N. Wells St. 312-467-0546.

DELEECE
5:30-10 p.m.: Four-course dinner featuring fettuccine with butternut squash, herb-crusted slow-roasted arctic char, roasted pork loin with baby turnips and chestnut-maple custard tart. Regular menu also available. $40; 4004 N. Southport Ave. 773-325-1710.

DELEECE GRILL PUB
5-11 p.m.: Four-course dinner featuring butternut squash soup, smoked salmon mousse, apple-glazed roasted goose, apricot-glazed ham with roasted sweet potatoes and apple pie. Regular menu also available. $40; 3313 N. Clark St. 773-348-3313.

HARRY CARAY’S ITALIAN STEAKHOUSE
11:30 a.m.-3 p.m.: Specials available in addition to the regular menu. Options include carrot ginger bisque ($5.95), duck breast with wild rice pilaf ($25.95) and honey-chipotle-glazed pork loin ($23.95); 33 W. Kinzie St. 312-828-0966.

LM LE RESTAURANT
5:30-10 p.m.: Four-course dinner featuring sauteed foie gras, pumpkin soup, truffle risotto, creme brulee and more. $48. 4539 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-942-7585.

NACIONAL 27
5-11 p.m.: Four-course Cuban holiday dinner with wine pairings. Menu includes hearts of palm salad, slow-roasted suckling pig, spice-rubbed jumbo prawns and tres leches cake. $45; 325 W. Huron St. 312-664-2727.

OSTERIA VIA STATO
5-10 p.m.: Feast of the Seven Fishes. Executive chef David DiGregorio prepares a three-course Italian dinner. Menu includes baby octopus salad, crispy calamari and parmesan crusted onions served family-style; penne arrabiata and mezzi rigatoni served family-style; choice of Atlantic salmon salsa verde, diver scallops with butternut squash and wild mushrooms or chef’s fish special; and crispy Calabrian potatoes and pan-roasted Brussels sprouts served family-style. $38.95; 620 N. State St. 312-642-8450.

PICCOLO SOGNO
5:30-9 p.m.: Seafood specials available in addition to the regular menu, including seafood and shellfish soup; slow-braised salt cod filet with Mediterranean olives; sea salt-encrusted Mediterranean bass; and wood-grilled sardines with onions and fennel. Prices vary; 464 N. Halsted St. 312-421-0077.

SUSHISAMBA RIO
11:30 a.m.-1 a.m.: Five-course dinner includes celery root soup and cured ocean trout salad. Regular menu also available. $45; 504 N. Wells St. 312-595-2300.

TRADER VIC’S
5-10 p.m.: Specials available in addition to the regular menu. Prices vary; 1030 N. State St. 312-642-6500.

VENUS GREEK-CYPRIOT CUISINE
4-9 p.m.: Five-course dinner, including a glass of wine or martini. $30; 820 W. Jackson Blvd. 312-714-1001.

ZEST
5-10 p.m.: Five-course dinner featuring seared duck breast with port-poached baby pears; butternut squash and apple bisque; slow-roasted rack of lamb; and warm spiced chocolate cake. $67. Wine pairings for an additional $25; 525 N. Michigan Ave. InterContinental Chicago. 312-321-8844.

CORRECTION

A Wednesday Metromix dining story incorrectly listed the price of Elate’s New Year’s Eve second seating. It is $75.

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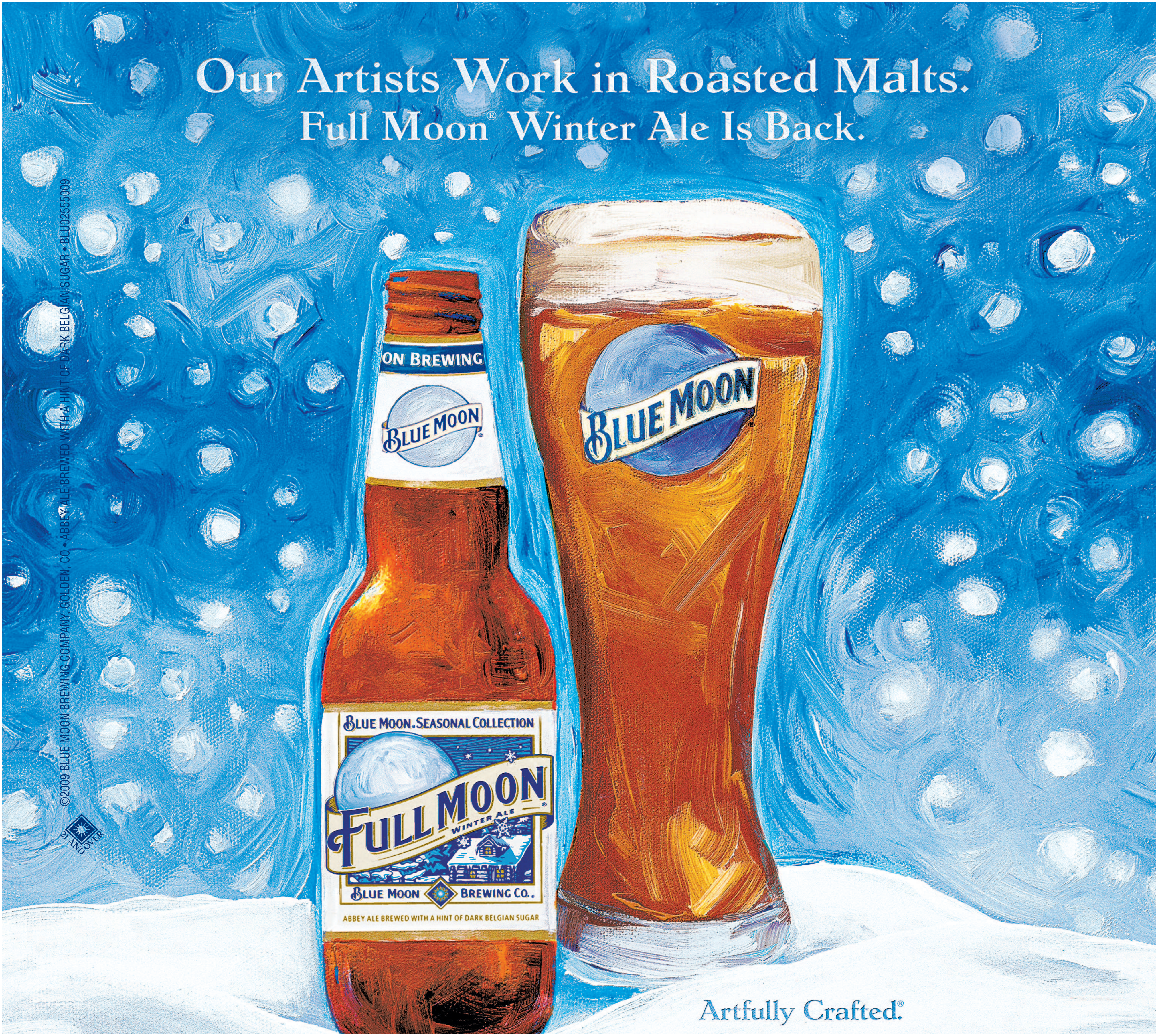
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AMY AND THE RHINOS
8 p.m. $10-$18. Space, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston. 847-492-8860.

ARRIVER, ACROSS TUNDRAS, ANATOMY OF HABIT
9 p.m. $5-$8. Empty Bottle, 1035 N. Western Ave. 773-276-3600.

BARRY MANILOW
8 p.m. $12.37-$261.62. Rosemont Theatre, 5400 N. River Rd., Rosemont. 847-671-5100.

BEN RIPANI MUSIC CO.
9 p.m. $7. The Kinetic Playground, 1113 W. Lawrence Ave. 773-769-5483.

THE BITTER TEARS, BEGIN BY GATHERING SUPPLIES, THE COLUMBINES, BULLY PULPIT
8:30 p.m. $8. Subterranean, 2011 W. North Ave. **housecallent.com**

BLACK UMBRELLA BRIGADE, NATE AND HIS KITE, A SAMPLE LIFE
9 p.m. $7. Martyrs', 3855 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-404-9869.

BMR-4
9 p.m. $10. Andy's Jazz Club, 11 E. Hubbard St. 312-642-6805.

CARLOS JOHNSON
9:30 p.m. $10. Buddy Guy's Legends, 754 S. Wabash Ave. 312-427-0333.

CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA AND REDMOON THEATER
8 p.m. $18-$118. Symphony Center, 220 S. Michigan Ave. 312-294-3000.

CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA BRASS
3 p.m. $26-$99. Symphony Center, 220 S. Michigan Ave. 312-294-3000.

CRAIG POMRANZ
8 p.m. Cover varies. Two-drink minimum. Davenport's, 1383 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-278-1830.

ECHO SON, MADE AVAIL, ARMA, ALONG THE PARALLEL
8 p.m. $8. Double Door, 1572 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-489-3160.

ERIN MCDOUGALD
8 p.m. Cover varies. The Underground Wonder Bar, 10 E. Walton St. 312-266-7761.

THE FOKS, THE BLUSHING GUN, BASHIRI ASAD AND XENOBIA GREEN, PUTTER SANFORD AND THE GANG, KHARI B
8:30 p.m. $8. Elbo Room, 2871 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-549-5549.

THE HANDSOME DEVILZ, KID A
8 p.m. $10. Reggie's Rock Club, 2109 S. State St. 312-949-0120.

HEY CHAMP, FRENCH HORN, REBELLION, A&R
9 p.m. $12. Lincoln Hall, 2424 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-525-2508.

JAMES WHEELER BLUES JAM
9:30 p.m. $5. Rosa's Lounge, 3420 W. Armitage Ave. 773-342-0452.

THE LAKESIDE SINGERS
8 p.m. $35. Harris Theater for Music and Dance in Millennium Park, 205 E. Randolph Drive. 847-382-5085.

LESLIE BUEKLEMAN TRIO
9 p.m. $8. Pops for Champagne, 601 N. State St. 312-266-7677.

LUIZ EWERLING AND A COR DO BRAZIL
10:30 p.m. Cover varies. The Underground Wonder Bar, 10 E. Walton St. 312-266-7761.

MAR CARIBE, THE MIEKA CANON
9 p.m. $10 suggested donation. Uncommon Ground on Devon, 1401 W. Devon Ave. 773-465-9801.

MULLIGAN MOSAICS BIG BAND
8 and 10 p.m. Free. Jazz Showcase, 806 S. Plymouth Ct. 312-360-0234.

OPEN MIC BLUES JAM
8:30 p.m. Free. Harlem Avenue Lounge, 3701 Harlem Ave., Berwyn. 708-484-3610.

PAUL MARTINO TRIO
8 p.m. $10. Katerina's, 1920 W. Irving Park Rd. 773-348-7592.

PROJECT 6
8:30 p.m. Cover varies. The Velvet Lounge, 67 E. Cermak Rd. 312-791-9050.

RAISE HIGH THE ROOF BEAM, GENTLEMAN AUCTION HOUSE, OLD STABLE HANDS
9 p.m. $7. Schubas, 3159 N. Southport Ave. 773-525-2508.

RUSS PHILIPS EXPERIENCE
5 p.m. $5. Andy's Jazz Club, 11 E. Hubbard St. 312-642-6805.

SONS OF FIRE, CHURCH KEY, FELON LOVE, IN RUINES
8 p.m. $5-$8. Bottom Lounge, 1375 W. Lake St. 312-666-6775.

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LEFT BRAIN HEART
8 p.m. $7. Ronny's, 2101 N. California Ave. **mpshows.com**

STOP THE SILENCE: UNMUVABO, MAMA EARTH, CHRISTOPHER LEMARK, PHILLIP MORRIS, PRIMERIDIAN, FM SUPREME, LADY TERROR, BLUNT CREW, GHOSTHOUSE, DRUNKEN MONKEE, OTHERS
9 p.m. $10-$15. Abbey Pub, 3420 W. Grace St. 773-478-4408.

THE STREETERS, MISS SHEVAUGHN AND YUMA RAY, THE SEWING MACHINE
9 p.m. $5 donation. Quenchers Saloon, 2401 N. Western Ave. 773-276-1730.

TORONZO CANNON AND THE CANNONBALL EXPRESS
9:30 p.m. $7. B.L.U.E.S., 2519 N. Halsted St. 773-528-1012.

VINO LOUDEN, JOANNA CONNOR BLUES BAND
9:30 p.m. $15. Kingston Mines, 2548 N. Halsted St. 773-477-4646.

WALTER PAYTON COLLEGE PREP HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR
Noon. Free. Washington Library Center, 400 S. State St. 312-747-4300.

METROMIX'S TOP SHOWS

Our Lady Peace

Andrew Bird

Last night for this rare opportunity.
8 p.m. $35-$40. Fourth Presbyterian Church, 126 E. Chestnut St. 312-787-4570.

AM Taxi

Read our interview with the up-and-coming locals at **metromix.com**. *Rise Against, Street Sweeper Social Club headline.*
7:30 p.m. Sold out. House of Blues, 329 N. Dearborn St. 312-923-2000.

Our Lady Peace

Recent "Burn Burn" reiterates that they're not just a '90s novelty act. With Model Stranger, Bullet Called Life.
9 p.m. $10. Cubby Bear, 1059 W. Addison St. 773-327-1662.

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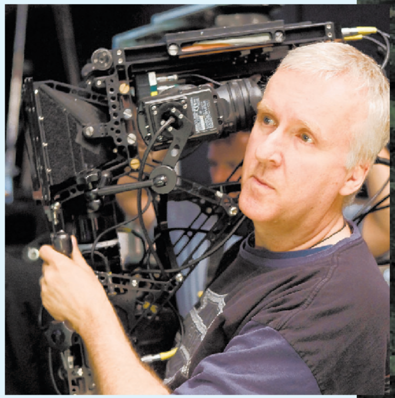
Cameron's new world

Associated Press

This movie has been in the making for more than a decade.

James Cameron conceived the story of "Avatar" in 1995, then waited for technology to catch up so he could film it.

During that time, Peter Jackson mastered the art of performance-capture filming with his Gollum character in "The Lord of the Rings" saga and the ape in "King Kong." With "The Polar Express," "Beowulf" and this season's "A Christmas Carol," Robert Zemeckis pioneered shooting entire films in performance capture—actors working on bare sound stages in skintight suits dotted with sensors read by the digital cameras.


Director James Cameron wields the virtual camera.

Zemeckis' films have the look of animation, but Cameron set out to create a photorealistic world filled with alien life forms—giant plants with a defense mechanism that sucks them into the ground in an instant, flying reptilian "banshees" that can be ridden like horses, six-legged beasts of burden called "direhorses."

Along with Cameron's 3-D system, among his innovations were a virtual camera simulating what the finished product might look like as he was filming and a helmet-cam clamped to actors' heads to record their facial expressions, overcoming the "dead-eye" effect and other limitations that have made the faces of some performance-capture characters seem lifeless.

"So here you've got four or five new technologies all laid over each other in this palimpsest of new technologies, and it was just insane for the first six months or so," Cameron said. "We literally were just scratching our heads every day."

Cameron hired Jackson's WETA effects house to transform his digital data into the world of Pandora, basically, to put the costumes and makeup on the characters and build the sets.

Cameron has ideas for two sequels should "Avatar" make enough money to become its own franchise. But that's up to the audience now.

Blue streak

SCI-FI SPECTACLE 'AVATAR' A GAMBLE OF 'TITANIC' PROPORTIONS—AND IT'S LIKELY TO PAY OFF

Associated Press

It's fair to say that it's a risky venture to create a movie about an exotically colored, 10-foot-tall tribe called the Na'vi and spend more money making it than any other film in the history of Hollywood.

Yet investing hundreds of millions of dollars in James Cameron's "Avatar" (exact figures aren't available, but the total cost, including marketing, is expected to run close to half a billion dollars) is a bet likely to pay off for 20th Century Fox.

Cameron has a box-office track record matched by few. And, in case there was any worry, Fox is running an enormous advertising campaign that included the unusual step of previewing 15 minutes of the film nationwide in August.

But however many millions "Avatar" earns, it clearly sits firmly in the grand tradition of audacious Hollywood spectacles—the kind of over-the-top, go-for-broke grabs for silver screen glory.

There have been movies that took risks with social progressiveness ("The Defiant Ones," "Brokeback Mountain"), that gambled with casting ("Valkyrie," "Precious") and that upended convention ("Taxi Driver," "Pulp Fiction").

But no roll of the cinematic dice captivates quite like the true Hollywood colossus—those behemoths where ego and budget swell in tandem. They either reach stratospheric heights or bomb faster than you can say "Gigli." A sampling of moviedom's risky business:

'Titanic'

Yes, Cameron has been here before. The run-up to the release of 1997's "Titanic" had all the hallmarks of an enormous flop in the making: cost overruns (its production budget reached a then-record $200 million), blown deadlines, a 17-million-gallon tank—you know, the usual stuff. But it made $600 million domestically and $1.2 billion internationally and won 11 Academy Awards.

'Waterworld'

Water was good for "Titanic," but unkind to Kevin Costner's 1995 soggy epic. Costner, not long off "Dances With Wolves," "Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves" and "JFK," was then a big star. Budget costs ballooned, the central set sank and Costner clashed with director Kevin Reynolds. With a budget of $175 million, it grossed $88 million at the box office for Universal Pictures.

'The Lord of the Rings' trilogy

Eight years and $285 million is a lot to sink into an unproven director. But New Line's gamble that Peter Jackson could bring home J.R.R. Tolkien's story—and that the audience would be there for the second and third films—paid off in spades. Shooting all three of the films together was a classic boom-or-bust tactic. The trilogy made $2.9 billion worldwide, more than the original "Star Wars" trilogy.

A Na'vi warrior races into battle on a fearsome Thanator in 'Avatar.' 20TH CENTURY FOX

'Passion of the Christ'

Mel Gibson showed that some filmmakers, when given latitude, can make a monstrous hit. "Passion" (2004) was produced by Gibson's Icon Productions, giving him free rein to make the movie he wanted. Made for just $30 million, it wasn't financially risky. But as an openly religious, subtitled film, much of it in Aramaic, Gibson's reputation was certainly on the line. As one of the most profitable films ever made, grossing $371 million domestically, it wasn't the movie that hurt Gibson's image but anti-Semitic remarks he made during a DUI arrest.

'Pirates of the Caribbean'

In retrospect, Disney's pirate series seems like an obvious hit. But Disney's earlier tries at turning theme-park attractions into movies ("The Haunted Mansion," "The Country Bears") had not done well. Johnny Depp's legion of adoring fans might be shocked to recall that the actor also was viewed as box-office poison at the time. Yet the three films (2003's "The Curse of the Black Pearl," 2006's "Dead Man's Chest" and 2007's "At World's End") collectively earned $2.6 billion worldwide, a huge relief to Disney since they were extremely expensive to make: $140 million, $225 million and $300 million, respectively.

Opening Pandora's box

Imperialism. She-goddesses. The rape of nature.

The year is 2154, and Jake Sully (Sam Worthington), a Marine who has lost the use of his legs fighting in a war he didn't understand, is asked to replace his dead twin in a program being run light years away, on a moon called Pandora.

With an atmosphere toxic to humans, Pandora is inhabited by a tribe known as the Na'vi, 10-foot, lithe, marbled-blue aboriginals for whom Pandora is sacred. What the earthlings want is the Pandoran mineral Unobtainium, which has proved to be the solution to a ravaged Earth's energy problems. What the Na'vi want is the Earthlings gone. In an effort to ingratiate themselves—and perhaps prevent Col. Miles Quaritch (Stephen Lang) and his fellow corporate mercenaries from mowing down the Na'vis while taking their land—scientists attached to the mining campaign have created Na'vi-like avatars, which are genetically matched to their human "drivers."

Because Jake's DNA matches his brother's, he's the perfect replacement. Because inhabiting an avatar means he'll walk again, Jake agrees to go. **NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE**

Worthington in 'Avatar'

Good plot not part of budget

fast paised

MATT PAIS

mpais@tribune.com

AVATAR
(PG-13)

● ◐ ○ ○

The irritable Na'vi creatures of the planet Pandora clearly respect military service. The only reason they don't kill Jake Sully's (Sam Worthington) giant blue avatar—the remote-controlled body he uses to survive the outer-space settlement's lethal conditions—is because he's a former Marine.

This allows Jake to bond with a local gal (Zoe Saldana) who saves his life and get hip to the Na'vi's environmental appreciation, which doesn't exactly jibe with the humans' plan to relocate the Na'vi and dig for a valuable mineral.

The buzz: Pandora looks like a nice place: Pretty scenery, intriguingly violent animals, abundant hammocks and bikini-clad women with combat skills. Writer-director James Cameron's epic should look good—he spent years developing revolutionary 3-D technology for the effects—but the question remains why the plot shares so much DNA with "The Matrix" and "Dances with Wolves." Oh, with a production and marketing budget reaching an estimated $500 million, it's also regarded as the most expensive film ever made.

The verdict: If I wanted to hear endless nonsense spewed from something good-looking, I'd watch "The Tyra Banks Show." Yeah, some of the visuals in the otherwise cliché "Avatar" are cool, whether it's a tour through floating mountains or an attack from a rhino that seems to have been crossbred with a hammer. Otherwise, a horrible script and crazy-long running time will make you think you're watching "2012." Don't expect to get close to any of the characters or hear a consistent explanation of how the avatar system works. No moral questions either. Instead: unintentionally funny speechifying about the "Tree of Souls" and the most Smurftastic nudity since "Watchmen."

"Avatar" opens Friday nationwide.

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TV

'Survivor' *7 p.m. Thursday, CBS*

We all have our favorite baddies, or quasi-baddies—Rob Mariano, Jerri Lynn Manthey, Lex van den Berghe and, of course, Johnny Fairplay—but Russell Hantz may be their superior because he so perfectly embraces rule No. 1 in "Survivor": Lie to everyone, but just remember all your lies. Russell has overlooked rule No. 2—at the end of the game, the jury votes for you, not against you, so best to not be too treacherous. (Oops.) This baddie can't possibly win, can he?

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THE WASHINGTON POST

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Instead of feasting your way through the holidays and packing on unwanted pounds, try volunteering at a food kitchen or homeless shelter. You'll feel better for it. TRIBUNE FILE

Mix things up: Cook for someone in need

The Washington Post

This the most challenging time of year for those of us watching our weight. We feast and nibble our way through the holidays, and if we try to skip the season's gustatory delights, it feels downright Grinch-like.

But there is a way to indulge your enthusiasm for holiday foods without packing on pounds. Instead of focusing on your own wining and dining, you could channel your energy into cooking for others. And, in the spirit of the season, why not shift your attention from baking for friends and family to creating a meal for someone in need?

Homeless people and those in crisis could really use a nourishing meal (not just now but throughout the year). Your donations of home-cooked food can make a big difference in the day of a person who's feeling isolated and disconnected from loved ones.

Homeless people and those in crisis could really use a nourishing meal. Home-cooked food can make a big difference in the day of a person who's feeling isolated and disconnected from loved ones.

Here are some tips to get you started:

» Find out what a homeless shelter in your neighborhood needs most. Some shelters may prefer canned goods; others may be happy to have your home-cooked meals. During the holidays, many people donate such main-dish meats as turkey and ham, and desserts such as cookies and pies. Comfort food such as macaroni and cheese is delicious, but there are other, more healthful options.

» Think about healthful side dishes, fresh salad or fruit. Providing healthful (while delicious and nicely presented) food can help residents make a successful transition from their current lives to the better ones that lie ahead.

» Be sure to ask about your role beyond simply preparing a meal. Some shelters invite donors to serve the meal they've made and even join residents at the table. Others may have you just drop off a dish or canned goods.

» Match your kitchen skills to the shelter's needs. Maybe all you can manage is a simple stir-fry of frozen vegetables and a pot of rice. Consider asking friends to team up to prepare a full meal. The effort could even turn into a holiday tradition.

» Take all the usual food-safety precautions. Brush up on safe practices, including the "clean, separate, cook and chill" routine described at **foodsafety.gov.**

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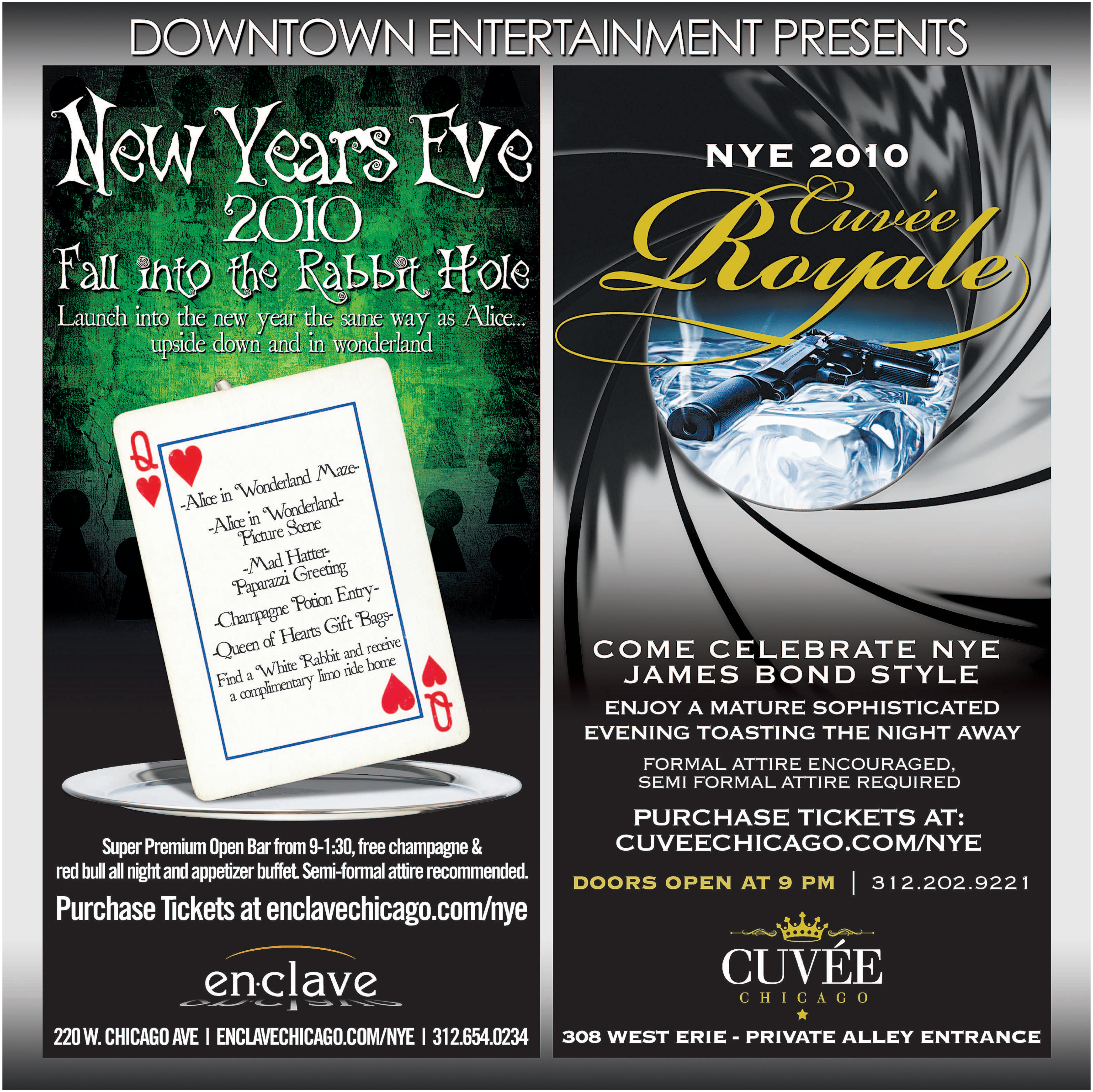

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Califone frontman explores superstitions

Los Angeles Times

HOLLYWOOD Tim Rutili, the frontman of Chicago's earthy, experimental folk act Califone, has several superstitions regarding making music and playing it live. Some he won't divulge, but others he tells with a wry sense of amusement.

"If the sound check is really good, it's going to be a crappy show, so sometimes I try to sabotage sound check," he said in an interview recently from Seattle, the first stop on the band's West Coast tour.

Rutili

He also can't eat before a show, and during the making of any big endeavor, including the band's nine albums, he loses something important, like a notebook or computer files.

His most recent undertaking proved the exception: For the making of the film "All My Friends Are Funeral Singers," a companion piece to Califone's album by the same name, Rutili didn't lose anything.

"All My Friends Are Funeral Singers" is the story of Zel (Angela Bettis), a psychic living in a country house occupied by ghosts. The project, which is Rutili's first feature as a writer-director, is set to screen next month at the Sundance Film Festival.

The music for "Funeral Singers" came to Rutili as he was filming friends and family, asking them about their superstitions; his grandfather throws salt on the ground after an unwanted visitor leaves. Inspired by images mentioned in the interviews, he began writing song fragments and then a short story developed.

In September 2008, he started a screenplay based on what he initially described as a "weird little children's story," splitting his days between screenwriting and writing the album.

"I'd send demos of songs and little bits of the screenplay to the band," said Rutili, who divides his time between family in Los Angeles and Tempe, Ariz., and his quartet in Chicago.

The tale grew darker as the pieces came together. After Rutili joined bandmates Jim Becker, Joe Adamik and Ben Massarella in Chicago, more songs and characters for the album and the film grew out of the recording session with longtime producer Brian Deck.

Rutili relies on his primitive resourcefulness to create purposeful magic.

"If a room is filled with junk," he said, "we'll find a way to get a certain quality out of it."

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Tim Johnson, curator of special collections and rare books at the University of Minnesota, displays some of the Sherlock Holmes memorabilia he oversees at the college. AP

Detecting a Sherlock stash in Minneapolis

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS Anyone searching for clues about the enduring popularity of Sherlock Holmes need not look only to his headquarters on London's Baker Street.

Deep in an underground cavern at the University of Minnesota lies the world's largest collection of Holmes memorabilia—a cache sure to expand with material from the new "Sherlock Holmes" movie starring Robert Downey Jr. as the pipe-puffing super-sleuth.

To many, it's a mystery how this trove of tens of thousands of books, toys, games, posters and recordings—from copies of the Holmes stories owned by the last empress of Russia to an original manuscript page of "The Hound of the Baskervilles"—ended up at a Midwestern university, half a world away from the foggy London streets of Holmes and his creator, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

The answer is elementary, according to Tim Johnson, curator of special collections and rare books at the University of Minnesota Libraries: A "happy series of accidents" involving a Nobel Prize laureate and other Holmes fans.

"People think the Holmes collection ought to be in London. So it's 'Why Minnesota?' And it's really just this series of happy events that occurred over time," Johnson said.

"Sherlock Holmes," already out in Britain, is being released Christmas Day in the U.S. Directed by Guy Ritchie ("Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels"), the film stars Downey as a man-of-action Holmes unraveling a nefarious plot by Lord Blackwood in Victorian England with the help of his sidekick Dr. John Watson, played by Jude Law.

The Holmes collection in Minnesota has 15,000 to 16,000 volumes, and other pieces bring the archive to 60,000 or more, Johnson said. They are kept in a cavern, fitted out for storage, about 85 feet below ground at the Elmer L. Andersen Library, where temperatures and humidity are controlled.

On metal shelves sit memorabilia including magnifying glasses, an ice cream carton with a cartoon cow wearing Holmes' iconic cap and a pillow with an image of Sherlock Hemlock, a Muppet character from "Sesame Street."

The school began amassing the Sherlock Holmes Collections in 1974, buying collector James C. Iraldi's library of Holmes first editions: 160 volumes and a similar number of periodicals. Four years later, Johnson said, the widow of Mayo Clinic doctor Philip S. Hench donated his Holmes collection.

Hench, who shared the 1950 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for developing cortisone to treat pain in arthritic patients, died in 1965. His Holmes collection was 10 times larger than Iraldi's and was "full of amazing rarities," Johnson said. That included four copies of "Beeton's Christmas Annual," which has the first appearance of Holmes in print. Only about 30 copies of Holmes' debut are known to exist, Johnson said.

With the donation of the Hench collection, "the Sherlockian world sat up," Johnson said.

The collection is open to the public by appointment and will accept nearly anything people want to donate, Johnson said. "Don't throw it away—send it to me."

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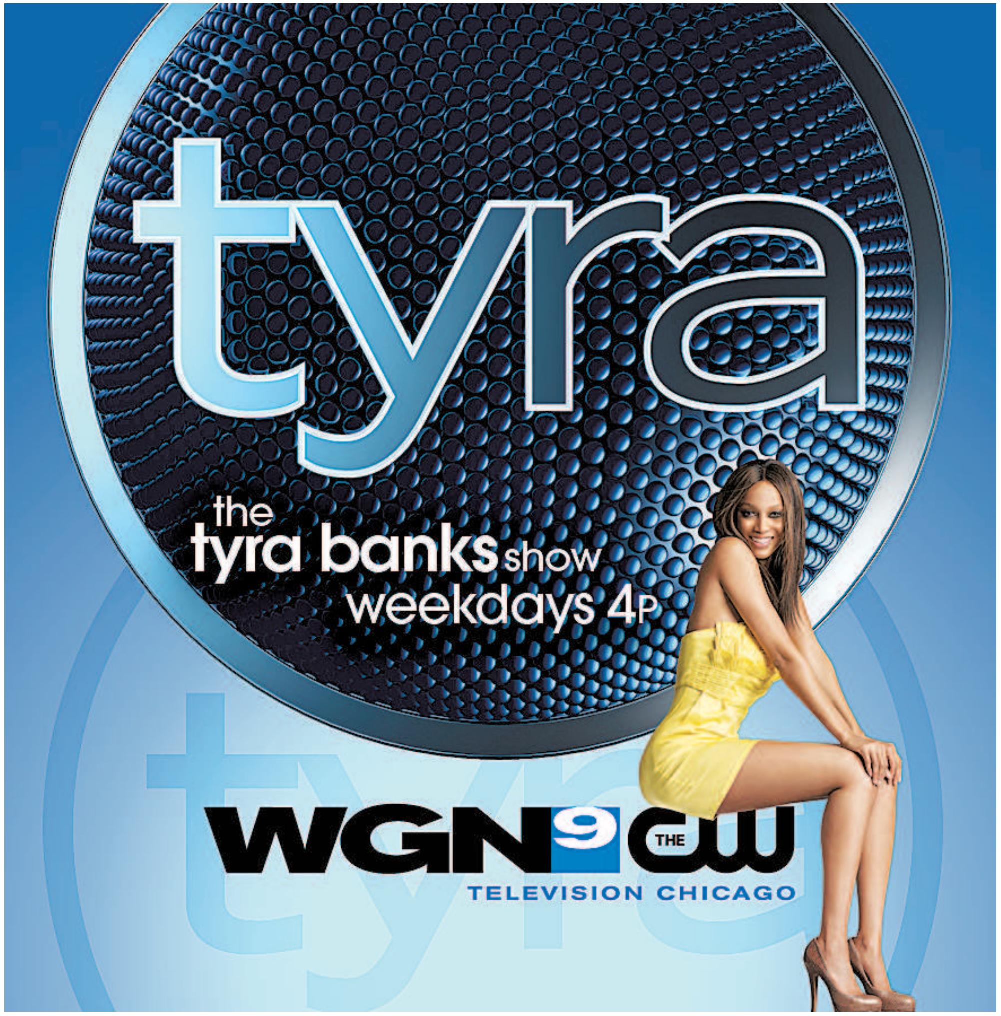

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Bullock having a banner year

Los Angeles Times

HOLLYWOOD Is 45 the new 25?

Maybe, if you consider the success of Sandra Bullock, who this year pulled in the biggest box-office bonanza of her career, powering both the romantic comedy "The Proposal" ($163 million domestically) and the inspirational sports drama "The Blind Side" ($150 million and counting). Tuesday, the films also earned Bullock, a perennial audience favorite, double Golden Globe nominations—one each for lead actress in a comedy film and a drama film—giving her a legitimate shot at her first Oscar nomination.

For Bullock, the nominations cap a year in which her commercial and critical success marked a turnaround from some of her more recent misfires: "The Lake House," "Miss Congeniality 2: Armed & Fabulous." But Bullock doesn't allow herself to follow the criticism or kind words too closely.

Just days before the nominations were announced, the actress noted that she doesn't usually bother to read reviews, "because they're usually bad, because of the films I like to make. I like to make what I like to make, and if I read how badly I'm talked about, I might change my direction.

"For that same reason, I can't look at the good. I saw a quote the other day—I sat there and I thought I would cry. I'm overwhelmed that someone would say something that nice. And I said, for that reason, I must shut this off. It caught me off-guard."

Bullock burst into stardom driving a bus loaded with explosives in the 1994 action hit "Speed" and developed a following for her unpretentious air and her facility for comedy. Hit after hit followed with such light fare as "While You Were Sleeping" and the original "Miss Congeniality." When she proved adept at a rare dramatic turn in the 2006 Oscar winner "Crash," critics took little notice.

Hollywood largely perceived Bullock as being on the downward slope because of her age and the less successful films that followed. The actress was not even the first choice for either of Tuesday's nominated roles. Julia Roberts first passed on "The Proposal" and also expressed no interest in "The Blind Side" after receiving that script.

Few recognized what a cultural phenomenon "The Blind Side" would be, playing to packed audiences, particularly in the South. Twentieth Century Fox passed on making it, and Bullock herself initially had reservations about taking the lead role.

In the John Lee Hancock film, based on a true story, Bullock plays Leigh Anne Tuohy, a fiery Southerner who adopts a homeless black teen and eventually nurtures him to become a star football player.

Hancock says Bullock expressed reservations about the part because Tuohy "is impossible to define easily" but agreed after meeting the real-life woman.

"It's the hardest thing I will ever do. And because of that, I should do it," Hancock says Bullock told him.

The filmmaker says that initial fear is exactly what forces many actors to abandon a role rather than dive into it. But the actress told him it was consistent with her confident worldview.

"Some of the best things in my life," Hancock recalls the actress telling him, "are the very things I first said no to."

In a statement released after her nominations, Bullock sounded characteristically excited and self-deprecating: "I am beyond stunned. Just to be included in the company of these amazing women I have so admired through the years has left me slack-jawed with awe."

Bullock
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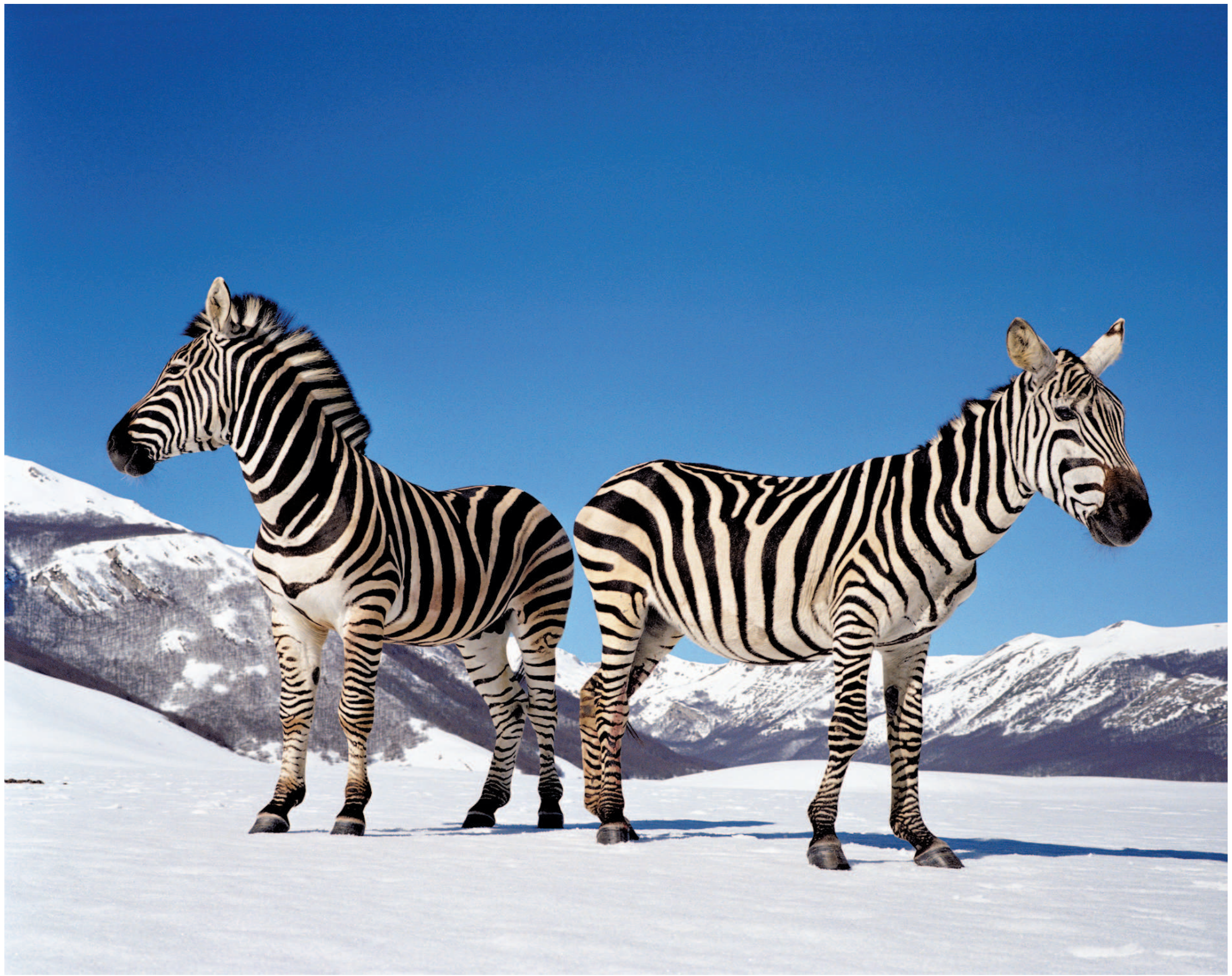

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- **Invictus** (PG–13) 1:20,4:45,7:50,10:50
- **Armored** (PG–13) 3:15,5:30,8:15,10:45
- **Brothers** (R) 2:10,5:00,8:00,10:40
- **Old Dogs** (PG) 2:20,4:50,7:10,9:30
- **Twilight: Moon** (PG–13) 1:15 P.M.
- **Twilight: Moon** (PG–13) 3:45 P.M.
- **The Blind Side** (PG–13) 1:30,4:30,7:30,10:30
- **2012** (PG–13) 2:30,6:15,9:45
- **Christmas Carol** (PG) 1:35,4:00,6:30,9:00
- AMC Select **An Education** (PG–13) 4:15,7:20,10:00

LANDMARK CENTURY CENTRE CINEMA (LANDMARK)

2828 North Clark St., Chicago
(773) 509-4949

- **Fantastic Fox** (PG) 2:00,4:50,7:15,9:30
- **Bad Lieutenant** (R) 1:55,4:40,10:10
- **A Serious Man** (R) 2:00,4:45,7:30,10:05
- **An Education** (PG–13) 1:45,4:20,7:00,9:45
- **Red Cliff** (R) 1:35,5:00,8:30
- **Coco Before** (PG–13) 1:30,7:10
- **New York** (R) 4:10,9:50
- **Breaking Point** (R) 1:50,4:25,7:35,9:55

CITY NORTH 14 (KERASOTES)

2600 N. Western Ave.
(800) 326-3264 #1642

- **Avatar 3D** (PG–13) ★ 12:01,12:03 A.M.
- **Avatar** (PG–13) ★ 12:02 A.M.
- **RiffTrax** (NR) ★ 7:00 P.M.
- **Princess-Frog** (G) ★ 12:10,2:00,2:40,4:30,5:10,6:50,7:30,9:10,9:50
- **Armored** (PG–13) ★ 12:50,3:10,5:30,8:00
- **Armored** (PG–13) ★ (Closed caption) 1:20,3:40,6:10,8:40,11:00
- **Brothers** (R) ★ 1:50,4:50,7:40,10:40
- **Ninja Assassin** (R) 12:30,2:50,5:20,7:50,10:15
- **The Blind Side** (PG–13) 12:20,3:20,6:20,9:20
- **The Blind Side** (PG–13) 1:00,4:00,7:00
- **Planet 51** (PG) 1:30,3:50,6:05,8:30,10:45
- **Twilight: Moon** (PG–13) 12:40,1:10,3:30,6:30,9:30
- **2012** (PG–13) 3:00,6:40,10:10
- **C'mas Carol 3D** (PG) 2:10,4:40,7:10,9:15
- **Precious: Novel** (R) 2:20,5:00,8:15,10:50

DAVIS THEATRE (VALUE)

4614 N. Lincoln Ave., Chicago
(773) 784-0893

- **Invictus** (PG–13) ★ 4:50,7:30,10:10
- **Brothers** (R) 5:10,7:30,9:50
- **Everybody** (PG–13) 4:15,6:15,8:15,10:15
- **Twilight: Moon** (PG–13) 4:45,7:20,10:00

FORD CITY 14 (AMC)

S. Cicero at 76th, Chicago
888-AMC-4FUN
Show times change daily

AMC Select - The best specialty films

- **Princess-Frog** (G) 1:00,2:00,3:10,4:20,5:25,6:40,7:45,9:00,10:00
- **Invictus** (PG–13) 1:20,4:15,7:05,9:55
- **Armored** (PG–13) 1:10,2:30,3:30,4:40,5:40,6:50,7:50,9:05,10:00
- **Everybody** (PG–13) 1:05,5:35,10:00
- **Old Dogs** (PG) 3:25,8:00
- **Ninja Assassin** (R) 2:50,5:10,7:30,9:50
- **Planet 51** (PG) 2:25,4:50,7:15,9:30
- **Twilight: Moon** (PG–13) 1:00,2:20,3:50,5:20,6:45,8:20,9:40
- AMC Select **Precious: Novel** (R) 1:45,4:15,6:45,9:20
- **The Blind Side** (PG–13) 1:30,4:25,7:10,9:55
- **2012** (PG–13) 3:00,6:15,9:35
- **Christmas Carol** (PG) 1:55,4:30,7:00,9:25

GENE SISKEL FILM CENTER

164 State Street
312-846-2800

- **Never Weaken** (NR) 6:00 P.M.
- **The Freshman** (NR)
- **Antonio Gaudi** (NR) 6:15,7:45
- **Severed Ways** (NR) 8:00 P.M.

LOGAN THEATRE

2646 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago
(773) 252-0628

- **Law Abiding** (R) 2:05,4:10,6:20,8:30
- **The Box** (PG–13) 2:10,4:20,6:30,8:40
- **Men Who Stare** (R) 2:00,4:00,6:05,8:10
- **Christmas Carol** (PG) 2:05,4:10,6:15,8:20

MUSIC BOX

3733 N. Southport, Chicago
(773) 871-6604

- **Collapse** (NR) 5:20,7:20,9:40
- **The Red Shoes** (NR) 5:00,8:00

PIPERS ALLEY (AMC)

1608 N. Wells, Chicago
888-AMC-4FUN
Show times change daily

- AMC Select **The Road** (R) 2:00,4:30,7:00
- AMC Select **Boondock II** (R) 1:50,4:50,7:40
- AMC Select **The Messenger** (R) 2:30,5:20,8:00
- AMC Select **Good Hair** (PG–13) 5:05 P.M.
- **The Blues Bros.** (R) 2:15,7:20

RIVER EAST 21 (AMC)

322 E. Illinois Street
888-AMC-4FUN
Show times change daily

AMC Select - The best specialty films

- AMC Select **Up in the Air** (R) 11:30,12:30,1:30,2:30,3:30,4:30, 5:30,6:30,7:30,8:30,9:30,10:30,11:30
- AMC Select **The Road** (R) 11:05,2:00,5:00,8:00,10:40
- **Did You Hear** (PG–13) 12:01 A.M.
- **Avatar 3D** (PG–13) 12:01 A.M.
- **RiffTrax** (NR) 7:00 P.M.
- **Princess-Frog** (G) 11:00,1:40,4:20,7:00,9:40
- **Princess-Frog** (G) 12:40,3:20,6:00,8:40
- **Invictus** (PG–13) 11:50,1:25,3:50,4:50,7:10,8:10,10:35
- **Larger Th** (PG) 12:45,3:15
- **Armored** (PG–13) 12:20,2:45,6:10,8:25,10:50
- **Brothers** (R) 11:10,1:55,4:55,7:45,10:30
- **Everybody** (PG–13) 11:15,2:05,4:40,7:20,10:05
- **Fantastic Fox** (PG) 11:40,2:15,4:35,7:05,9:25,11:45
- **Ninja Assassin** (R) 1:15,4:00,6:45,9:20
- **Planet 51** (PG) 11:00,1:20,3:40
- **Twilight: Moon** (PG–13) 11:25,12:25,2:35,3:20,5:40,8:50,11:50
- AMC Select **Precious: Novel** (R) 11:20,2:10,5:00,7:55,10:40
- **The Blind Side** (PG–13) 1:35,4:45,7:50,10:45
- **2012** (PG–13) 11:35,3:10,10:10
- **C'mas Carol 3D** (PG) 11:45,2:20,5:05,7:40

CROWN VILLAGE 18 (KERASOTES)

7000 Carperter Rd., Skokie
(800) 326-3264 #2309

- **Avatar 3D** (PG–13) ★ 12:01 A.M.
- **Avatar** (PG–13) ★ 12:01 A.M.

(continued)

CROWN VILLAGE 18 (KERASOTES) (continued)

- **Bad Lieutenant** (R) ★ 1:10,4:10,7:10,10:00
- **Invictus** (PG–13) ★ 12:30,1:00,3:20,4:00,6:20,7:00,9:20,10:20
- **Princess-Frog** (G) ★ 12:10,1:50,2:40,4:20,5:10,6:50,7:30,9:10,9:50
- **Armored** (PG–13) ★ 1:20,3:45,6:05,8:20,10:35
- **Brothers** (R) ★ 2:10,5:00,7:40,10:15
- **Everybody** (PG–13) ★ 12:15,2:50,5:20,8:00,10:30
- **Ninja Assassin** (R) 2:20,5:15,7:45,10:10
- **Old Dogs** (PG) 2:00,4:20,7:20,9:45
- **The Blind Side** (PG–13) 12:40,1:30,3:40,4:50,6:45,7:50,9:40,10:40
- **Planet 51** (PG) 1:15,3:50,6:15,9:15
- **Twilight: Moon** (PG–13) 12:30,3:30,6:30,9:30
- **2012** (PG–13) 12:50,2:30,4:45,6:10,8:10,9:55
- **C'mas Carol 3D** (PG) 1:45,4:15,6:40,9:00
- **Precious: Novel** (R) 1:40,4:30,7:15,10:05

WEBSTER PLACE (KERASOTES)

1471 W. Webster Ave., Chicago
(800) 326-3264 #1641

- **Avatar 3D** (PG–13) ★ 12:01 A.M.
- **RiffTrax** (NR) ★ 7:00 P.M.
- **Invictus** (PG–13) ★ 12:50,3:00,4:00,6:15,7:00,9:30,10:10
- **Me and Orson** (PG–13) ★ 1:50,4:40,7:20,10:00
- **Up in the Air** (R) ★ 2:00,2:30,4:45,5:15,7:30,8:00,10:15,10:40
- **Up in the Air** (R) ★ 1:00,3:45,6:30,9:15
- **Brothers** (R) ★ 12:40,3:40,6:50,9:45
- **Everybody** (PG–13) ★ 1:10,3:50,6:20,9:00
- **The Blind Side** (PG–13) 1:15,4:15,7:15,10:20
- **Twilight: Moon** (PG–13) 1:30,4:30,7:40,10:30
- **2012** (PG–13) 10:05 P.M.

SHOWPLACE 14 - GALEWOOD CROSSINGS (KERASOTES)

E. Side of Central Ave., just S. of Grand Ave.
(800) 326-3264 #1646

- **Avatar 3D** (PG–13) ★ 12:01 A.M.
- **Invictus** (PG–13) ★ 12:20,1:00,3:20,4:00,6:20,7:00,9:30,10:00
- **Princess-Frog** (G) ★ 12:10,1:40,2:40,4:10,5:10,6:30,7:30,8:50,9:50
- **Armored** (PG–13) ★ 1:20,2:20,3:40,4:50,6:10,7:10,9:00,9:40
- **Everybody** (PG–13) ★ 9:20 P.M.
- **Ninja Assassin** (R) 2:30,5:20,7:50,10:30
- **Old Dogs** (PG) 12:30,2:50,5:00,7:45,10:15
- **The Blind Side** (PG–13) 1:10,4:15,7:15,10:20
- **Planet 51** (PG) 1:15,3:50,6:50
- **Twilight: Moon** (PG–13) 1:30,4:30,7:40,10:40
- **2012** (PG–13) 3:00,6:40,10:10
- **C'mas Carol 3D** (PG) 2:00,4:20,6:45,9:10
- **Precious: Novel** (R) 1:50,4:40,7:20,9:55

CICERO SHOWPLACE 14 (KERASOTES)

4779 W. Cermak
(800) 326-3264 #1644

- **Avatar 3D** (PG–13) ★ 12:01 A.M.
- **Invictus** (PG–13) ★ 12:20,1:00,3:20,4:00,6:20,7:00,9:30,10:00
- **Princess-Frog** (G) ★ 12:10,1:40,2:40,4:10,5:10,6:30,7:30,8:50,9:50
- **Armored** (PG–13) ★ 1:20,2:20,3:40,4:50,6:10,7:10,9:00,9:40
- **Everybody** (PG–13) ★ 9:20 P.M.
- **Ninja Assassin** (R) 2:30,5:20,7:50,10:30
- **Old Dogs** (PG) 12:30,2:50,5:00,7:45,10:15
- **The Blind Side** (PG–13) 1:10,4:15,7:15,10:20
- **Planet 51** (PG) 1:15,3:50,6:50
- **Twilight: Moon** (PG–13) 1:30,4:30,7:40,10:40
- **2012** (PG–13) 3:00,6:40,10:10
- **C'mas Carol 3D** (PG) 2:00,4:20,6:45,9:10
- **Precious: Novel** (R) 1:50,4:40,7:20,9:55

OAK PARK

LAKE CINEMAS (CLASSIC)

1022 Lake Street
630-444-FILM #560

- **Princess-Frog** (G) 12:00,2:15,4:30,6:45,9:00
- **Everybody** (PG–13) ★ 12:40,2:50,5:00,7:10,9:20
- **Fantastic Fox** (PG) 1:05,3:10,5:15,7:20,9:25
- **Twilight: Moon** (PG–13) 1:30,4:20,7:15,10:00
- **The Blind Side** (PG–13) 1:00,4:05,7:00,9:40
- **2012** (PG–13) 12:00,3:15,6:30,9:45
- **C'mas Carol 3D** (PG) 12:10,2:25,4:40,6:55,9:10
- **Avatar 3D** (PG–13) ★ 12:01 Midnight

EVANSTON

CENTURY 12/CINEARTS 6 (CENTURY)

1715 MAPLE AVE.
(847)492-0123 ♿

- **Christmas Carol** (PG) ★ 3:50 P.M.
- **Avatar 3D** (PG–13) ★ 12:01 Midnight
- **Invictus** (PG–13) ★ 11:40,12:50,2:40,4:05,5:40,7:10,8:40,10:10
- **RiffTrax** (NR) ★ 7:00 P.M.
- **The Blind Side** (PG–13) ★ ◆ 2:35,8:35
- **Princess-Frog** (G) ★ 2:10,4:50,7:15,9:40
- **Up in the Air** (R) ★ 11:35,1:20,2:15,4:00,4:55,6:40,7:35,9:20,10:15
- **Up in the Air** (R) ★ 12:30,3:10,5:50,8:30
- **C'mas Carol 3D** (PG) 11:55,5:35
- **Armored** (PG–13) ★ 12:10,2:30,5:10,7:30,9:45
- **Brothers** (R) ★ 11:30,2:05,4:40,7:25,10:10
- **Everybody** (PG–13) ★ 11:30,2:05,4:30,7:20,9:55
- **Ninja Assassin** (R) 12:25,2:55,5:30,7:55,10:30
- **Old Dogs** (PG) 3:05 P.M.
- **Precious: Novel** (R) 12:20,2:50,5:20,7:50,10:20
- **The Blind Side** (PG–13) 1:00,3:55,7:00,10:00
- **Fantastic Fox** (PG) 12:05,2:25,4:45,7:05,9:25
- **The Road** (R) 11:45,2:20,5:00,7:40,10:25
- **Twilight: Moon** (PG–13) 11:35,12:45,2:45,5:45,6:50,8:50

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7		4		2	3			
	8	5	2					7
3		6				4		1
1					5	2	9	
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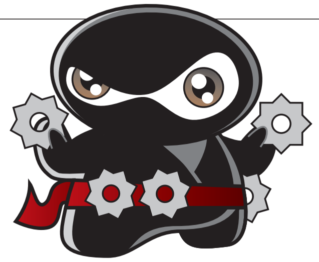
DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆



9	8	5	3	1	6	7	4	2
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3	1	7	2	4	9	8	5	6
1	4	3	9	6	8	2	7	5
6	2	8	5	7	4	9	3	1
7	5	9	1	2	3	4	6	8
5	7	6	4	8	2	1	9	3
4	3	2	6	9	1	5	8	7
8	9	1	7	3	5	6	2	4

WEDNESDAY'S SOLUTIONS

D	O	G	■	■	A	W	A	R	E	■	S	T	E	M
A	W	E	S	■	R	E	P	A	Y	■	C	O	V	E
D	E	N	T	■	C	A	S	T	E	■	H	A	I	R
■	D	E	A	T	H	L	E	S	S	■	I	D	L	E
■	■	■	D	O	E	S	■	■	I	F	S	■	■	■
V	A	R	I	E	S	■	R	E	G	I	M	E	N	T
A	L	O	U	D	■	L	I	T	H	E	■	J	O	E
L	O	O	M	■	D	E	P	O	T	■	T	E	R	N
O	H	M	■	H	A	V	E	N	■	S	E	C	T	S
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■	■	■	O	N	A	■	■	C	R	A	M	■	■	■
C	A	T	S	■	B	A	S	R	E	L	I	E	F	■
H	O	O	T	■	A	L	I	E	N	■	N	U	L	L
A	N	T	E	■	N	O	T	E	D	■	G	R	A	Y
D	E	E	R	■	K	E	E	L	S	■	■	O	N	E

ACROSS
1 Pocket bread
5 Debate
10 _ fide; genuine
14 Mine passage
15 Tiny insect
16 "Woe is me!"
17 Hawaii's state bird
18 Feeling of desolation
20 Helium or neon
21 Showy flowers, for short
22 Brown ermine
23 Arab leaders
25 Pub order
26 Unite, as two wires
28 Takes off
31 Book spine info
32 Blossom
34 French summer
36 "Thanks _!"
37 Kingdom
38 Fort _, KY
39 Evergreen bush or tree
40 Leather with a napped surface
41 Soup server
42 Rattlers
44 "A Tale of Two _"
45 El _; Spanish hero
46 New _, CT
47 Chatter
50 Scoop holder
51 _-de-France
54 Scientist's workplace
57 R-W connection
58 Finished
59 Concerto movement
60 Typewriter type size
61 Ties the knot
62 Bus fare, often
63 Inquires

DOWN
1 Painful spasm
2 Thought
3 Hollywood
4 Broke a fast
5 Entice
6 Kitchen & study
7 .22 and .45
8 Do drugs
9 Moray, for one
10 Back-and-forth joking
11 Margarine
12 Space flight agcy.
13 Helper: abbr.
19 Egypt's official religion
21 Rodents
24 Mr. Berle, to friends
25 Nucleus' place
26 Remain
27 Stacks
28 Shoe bottom
29 Fibrous tissue inflammation
30 Took without asking
32 Honey makers
33 Boy
35 Alimony payers
37 Had regrets
38 Actress Winslet
40 Jean-Claude Killy or Phil Mahre
41 _ in; inhabit
43 Oscar hopefuls
44 Narrow valley
46 Teeming crowd
47 Work the fields
48 Talk wildly
49 Not up yet
50 _ out; fall asleep
52 "Lotsa _!"
53 Perón & Gabor
55 _ Carney
56 Also
57 Jacuzzi

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	8	9	■	10	11	12	13
14				■	15					■	16			
17				■	18					19				
20			■	21				■	■	22				
■	■	23	24				■	■	25			■	■	■
26	27					■	■	28				29	30	■
31					■	32	33				■	34		35
36				■	37					■	38			
39			■	40					■	41				
■	42		43				■	■	44					
■	■	■	45			■	■	46					■	■
47	48	49			■	■	50				■	51	52	53
54					55	56				■	57			
58				■	59					■	60			
61				■	62					■	63			

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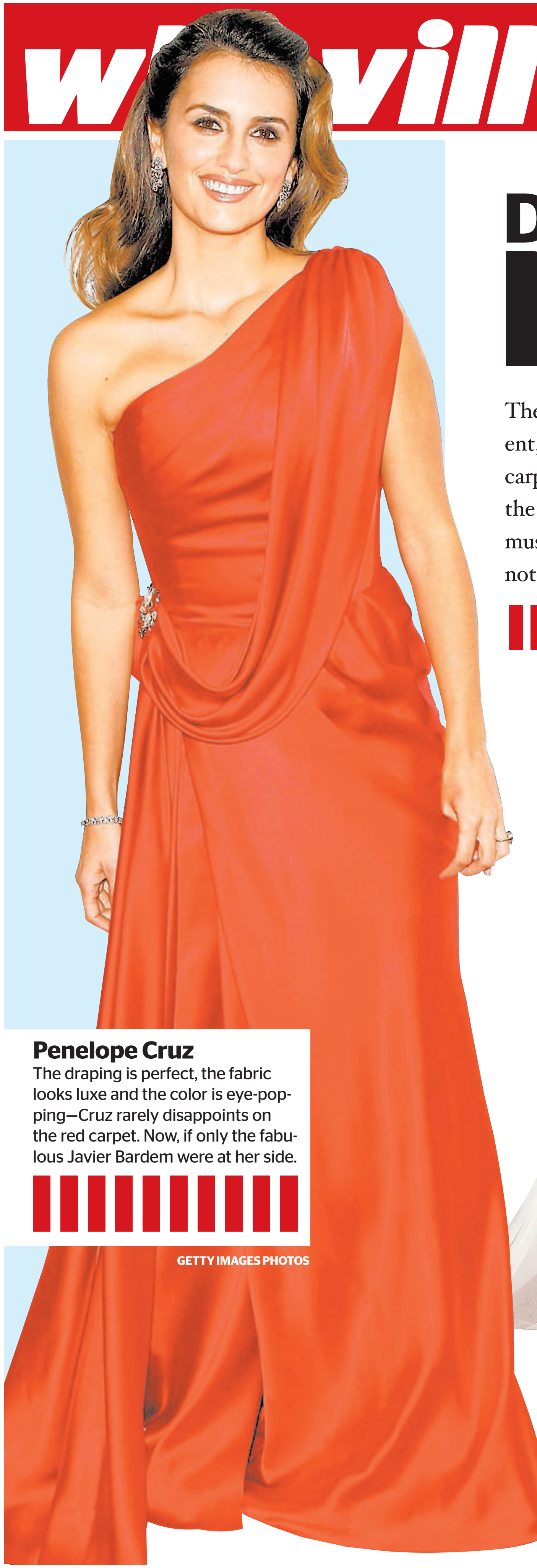
Dressed to the nines

The cast of the splashy "Nine" is a bushel of loveliness and talent, and these stunning women did not disappoint on the red carpet Tuesday night at the New York premiere. Who cares if the flick is getting so-so reviews? Let's just feast our eyes on the musical's bevy of beauties—and maybe one or two discordant notes who also came to the party. **EMILY ROSENBAUM MAKA, REDEYE**

🟥🟥🟥🟥🟥⬜⬜⬜⬜⬜ **« FASHION-O-METER**
We judge. The more red bars, the better.



Penelope Cruz

The draping is perfect, the fabric looks luxe and the color is eye-popping—Cruz rarely disappoints on the red carpet. Now, if only the fabulous Javier Bardem were at her side.

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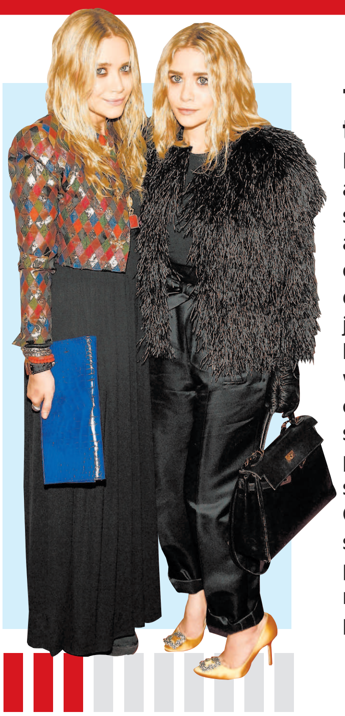
GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS



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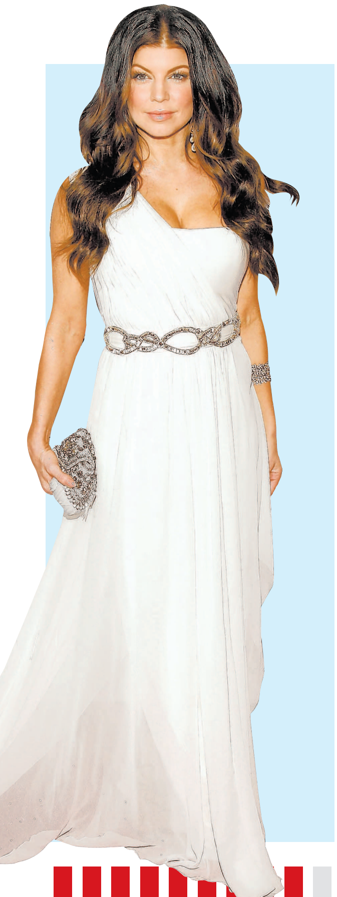
The Olsen twins

Mary-Kate appears to have swiped the aging dowager empress' quilted bed jacket and bulky clutch, while Ashley clearly has skinned a particularly shaggy bear. On the plus side, the gold pumps with rhinestones are pretty.



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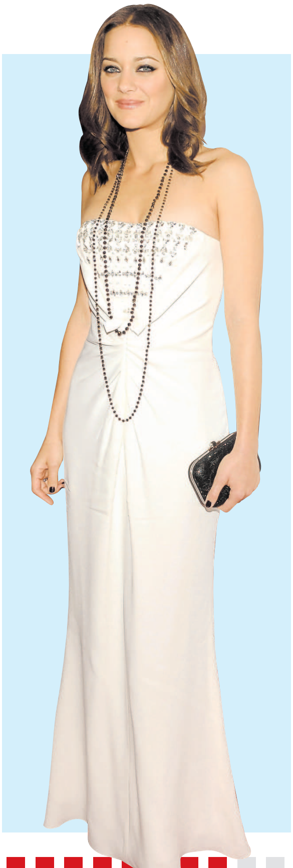
Fergie

Call her the goddess of music. This Grecian-inspired gown drapes beautifully and highlights her curves. Her long dark waves add to the theme.



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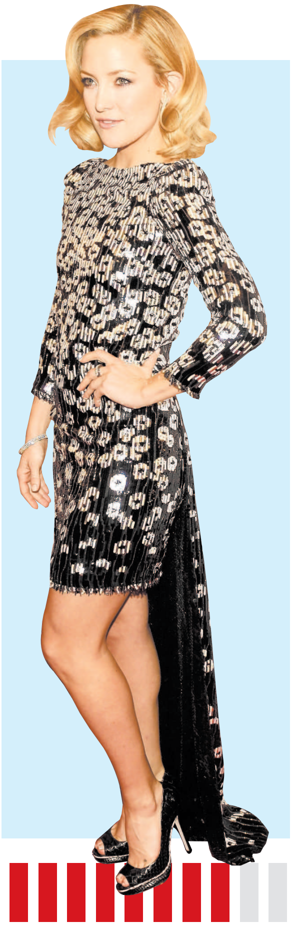
Marion Cotillard

The French stunner keeps it simple but chic in a strapless white column number with an intriguing bodice detail. The long beads and sparkling clutch are a nice touch.



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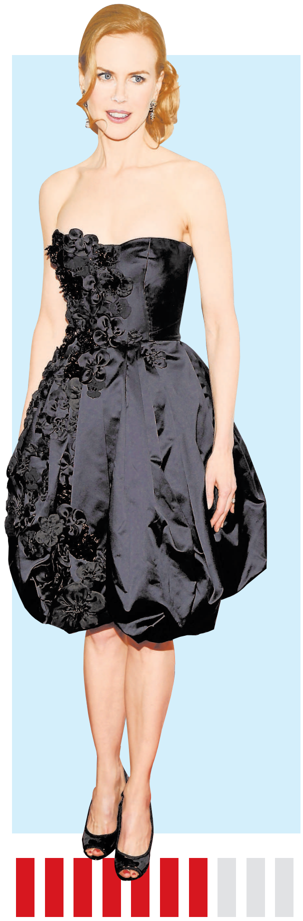
Kate Hudson

The mullet dress has nearly worn out its welcome this year, but the festive black-and-white spangles keep it fresh. As usual, Hudson's California-girl blond curls are a delight.



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Nicole Kidman

The willowy, pale Kidman wears a charming strapless black dress, saved from ho-humness by interesting floral appliques and a puffy skirt.

Ariana, 20 years old, has received classical ballet training at California Dance Theatre for the past 11 years. She has attended summer programs on scholarship with American Ballet Theater, Ballet Pacifica and Boston Ballet, and recently competed in The American Grand Prix where she received the opportunity to dance in New York. We photographed Ariana at 3rd Street Dance Studio in Los Angeles wearing the Tank Thong Bodysuit in Lapis and Opaque Pantyhose in Sangria.

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DANCE

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'Project Runway' season 7 designers
LIFETIME

Oh yes, we can make this work

Good news all around. The new "Project Runway" contestants have been revealed, the show is moving back to New York, Nina Garcia and Michael Kors will be full-time judges again and the show premieres in a few weeks—Jan. 14 to be exact. As for the designers this go-round, they hail from around the globe, including the Ivory Coast, the Dominican Republic, the Philippines, Mexico, China and Whitefish Bay, Wis.

A very important date

Tim Burton has released a new trailer for his version of "Alice in Wonderland," and things are, of course, very trippy. Burton's "Wonderland," set for a March 5 release, follows Alice's return trip down the rabbit hole. Wonderland has been taken over by the Red Queen in her absence, and Alice must form an army. It all looks macabre and glorious.

Holidays could be lonely

Us magazine is screaming "Split!" on its cover. Could this be it for Jake Gyllenhaal and Reese Witherspoon? For the record, no one is on the record; the information is attributed to an "insider." Meanwhile, although Kate Hudson and Alex Rodriguez never confirmed that they were a couple, there is much speculation on celeb Web sites that now they are not. OK, then.

"Shoppin' mall is close, my community is gated/My shorties are all private-school educated."

STEPHEN COLBERT

on his show Tuesday, rapping along to Alicia Keys' "Empire State of Mind." He told Keys, "There's not enough about the suburbs" in her hit song about New York.

THE DIGIT

500

Approximate number of copies of Lil Wayne's forthcoming album, "Rebirth," that accidentally were shipped to **amazon.com** customers who preordered the record, **billboard.com** reports. The long-delayed album is not scheduled for release until Feb. 1.

Lil Wayne
Tha Carter
Rebirth

GOOD DAY/BAD DAY
Tiger Woods

Good: Woods was selected Wednesday as the athlete of the decade by members of The Associated Press.

Bad: A moving van was spotted outside Woods' Florida home Wednesday, TMZ reports.

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